

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

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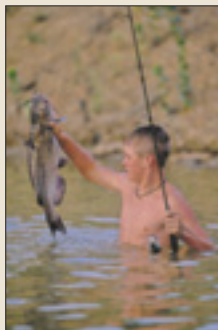
**HUNTING**  
New Dove Zone?

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### FISHING NEWS

Catfish anglers across the state are gearing up for the spring spawn. Experts say mid-May to mid-June is prime time for anglers to take a crack at catching a whiskerfish.



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Parents who bought their tikes a Zebco fishing rod with cartoon characters within the last five years should take note of a company recall.

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### HUNTING NEWS

Trophy hunters gathered to show off their big bucks and boars at the Los Cazadores Deer Contest awards in San Antonio.

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Did the British continue their dominance of the sporting clays championship that bears their name?

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### NATIONAL NEWS

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**DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME:** Mark Menendez shows off his driving skills on Lake Fork as bad weather approaches. Turn to page 9 for expert driving and safety tips.

## Freshwater Stamp Debate

Anglers rally to keep funds designated for fisheries

By DAVID SIKES

**F**rustrated freshwater anglers flexed their political muscle to keep freshwater fishing stamp revenue off limits to politicians trying to balance the state budget.

But as of press time, it appeared their lobbying efforts had fallen short. A legislative conference committee had agreed to issue \$15 million in revenue bonds

to be paid back over 20 years. However, that compromise must still go to a vote.

The Texas Legislature is considering budget proposals that would renege on a promise made by Texas Parks & Wildlife that freshwater fishing stamp revenue would be spent directly on a new fish hatchery, for repairs or upgrades to others and for fishes that would replenish reservoirs.

Now legislators want to fund these improvements with bor-

rowed money, which would reduce the amount of money available for the inland fisheries projects. Two pieces of legislation — Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 1 — propose some form of what outraged anglers are calling thievery.

The proposals are being debated together by a conference committee of members selected from the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee.

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## HUNTING LEGACY SECURED BY LAW

By MARK ENGLAND

**C**ome dove season this September, the sound of shotguns will be heard for the first time in two years on John Merrill's ranch near Crowley.

Merrill quit selling leases to hunters after they found themselves being hunted by law enforcement officers responding to complaints of firearms discharged within the Fort

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## Silence Of The Toms

By LYNN BURKHEAD

**B**y most accounts, while plenty of hunters tagged a Rio Grande or Eastern bird, the tale of this Texas turkey season was a strange one indeed that ended in much the same way that it began — unusually cool, windy, and quiet.

Take the Texas Panhandle for instance. On May 2, with temperatures primarily in the 30s, 4.7 inches of snow fell in Amarillo as the final week of the spring turkey season ran its course.

Such conditions are reminiscent of the early season chill that greeted turkey hunter Jim Lillis of Sherman.

Lillis and his wife, Jan, recalled finding near-freezing conditions as they chased opening-day Rio

Grandes in Cooke County.

The couple saw their turkey hunting fortunes rebound from that quiet, chilly start. A couple of weeks later as they hunted near Sweetwater, the husband-and-wife team enjoyed a nice stretch of weather and lowered the boom on four loudmouthed toms carrying thick beards and sharp spurs.

While similar tales of gobbler-getting success have been heard from various parts of Texas, not all hunters are looking in their cookbooks for a favored wild turkey recipe.

The silence of the toms was deafening for many a hunter.

T. Wayne Schwertner, an upland game bird specialist who serves as the statewide turkey program leader for Texas Parks and Wildlife, said he

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**A TURKEY OF A SEASON:** A trophy bird, like the one hanging from this barn door, wasn't as common this spring season.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

### Lone Star Outdoor News Names New Editor

I knew it was time to go fishing when the daffodils bloomed along the riverbank and the sunlight made the new leaves on the trees appear an intense Irish green.

When I was a girl, beginning around age 5, my grandfather would take me to a riverbank near our home in Virginia to fish in the spring. Always, he held my hand as we walked down what seemed a long dirt path for little legs. I'd sit beside him on the riverbank dangling my legs over the water and holding tight to my fishing pole.

Those were some of my best memories of my grandfather — a tall, patient man who passed on his love of fishing to me. So it's not so strange that I'm the new editor of Lone Star Outdoor News.

I was part of Lone Star's original staff, serving as managing editor and writing. For the most part, my background is in the daily news business. For the past 16 years, I've worked for publications in Texas, Florida and Connecticut. I got my start in Waco, Texas, where I broke the Branch Davidian cult story with a fellow reporter. Since then, I've been all over the country. But now I'm home.

True, I'm not a native Texan — but Texas is where my heart is. Plus, my husband was born in this great state, so that ought to count for something, too. I know I've got plenty to learn about the finer points of fishing and hunting. Still, the way I see it, this will be a great adventure — and I hope you join me by becoming a regular reader. I intend to use my experience to make the "News" part of our publication's name stand out, while continuing to provide outstanding writing and reporting.

—Darlene McCormick Sanchez

# LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

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# CONSERVATION UPDATE

## Greenwings Leave North Texas Wetland Legacy

Ducks unlimited project near Corsicana will serve as outdoor classroom for hundreds of children while benefiting ducks, egrets and great blue herons

BY LYNN BURKHEAD

For Doug Jones, life is about what you leave behind, even as an outdoorsman.

And thanks in part to Jones' hard work – and the hard work of many others across Texas – what is being left behind is a legacy of waterfowl hunting and wetlands conservation efforts.

That much seemed apparent to the crowd that attended the April 30 dedication of the first Texas Ducks Unlimited Legacy Greenwing Project at Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area, an area lying between Richland-Chambers Reservoir and the Trinity River near Corsicana.

Jones, a district chairman for DU who lives in Keller, helped lead the effort to enroll the project's 101 Legacy Greenwing members at a cost of \$200 per youngster.

"Knowing that we had this one (project) here at Richland Creek WMA so close to the Metroplex, I kind of took it upon myself to start talking to people and tell them that this was something great for them to do for their kids and their grandkids," Jones said.

Jones and other DU volunteers were at the recent event, watching the unveiling of a bronze plaque that formally dedicated the unique educational wetland complex.

To them, the money raised for this cooperative cost-sharing project between Texas Parks and Wildlife and DU was money well spent.

"That's because it's money that should help to educate youth about wetlands, waterfowl and wildlife for generations to come.

"What we built was a 15-acre wetland right behind the Richland

Creek WMA headquarters," said TPW biologist and WMA manager Jeff Gunnels. "We're going to use that as a demonstration wetland."

According to Gunnels, the unit, though small in overall acreage, is big on educational potential.

"It's for us to teach with," Gunnels said. "Since it is right next to our headquarters, we'll be able to take school children to tour it with a place to park their school bus."

"We will be able to take 350 to 400 kids per year that we can take down there and educate about wetland ecology," he added.

While conservation education is obviously one of the project's primary goals, it isn't the only one.

Already, the project has been a boon to several species of migratory waterfowl through the provi-

ducing ringnecks – were attracted to submergent vegetation like coontail moss growing in the project's deep-water component.

As with most DU projects however, ducks aren't the only species that are benefited through this work.

Gunnels indicated that wading birds like great egrets, snowy egrets, and great blue herons will benefit from both dead snags left standing and from the annual drawdown efforts that expose crawfish and other invertebrates on the wetland's mud flats.

And that's to say nothing of the literal smorgasbord of shorebirds that are currently traveling through the region on their northward migratory journey.

"In a calendar year's time, while we might have been managing it

to provide wintering habitat for ducks, the wetland will actually benefit a whole lot of other wildlife species over that year's time," Gunnels said.

Lisa Harris, DU's senior vice president for youth education, believes the project is a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Beneficiaries include DU, TPW, Greenwing youth, and of course, the waterfowl and wildlife.

"Being there and seeing the parents, the staff of TPW and watching the kids out there on the project looking at wildlife and insects and watching their participation, I think it was a real success," Harris said.

Like a proud papa, Jones obviously agreed.

"I've got three kids and they all contributed," Jones said. "When I first heard about this, I didn't even ask my wife (about contributing). I told my wife, 'I know it's \$600, but I think it's the best \$600 I can spend. It gives me a chance to leave something (behind) for my kids.'"



WETLANDS: A worker adjusts a water-control structure. Photo by Lynn Burkhead.

sion of food resources and protective roosting cover that helps to shield the ducks from overhead avian predators like owls.

"This past winter, when it was full, on any given day, we were seeing an average of 400 ducks per day," Gunnels said.

The TPW biologist indicated that as many as 300 puddle ducks – species like mallards, green-winged teal, and pintails – were drawn to the seed-rich emergent vegetation that is nurtured through moist soil management efforts on the wetland complex.

Another 100 diving ducks – pri-



Courtesy of David Allen/www.birds.cornell.edu

## Ivory-Billed Beauty Alive After All

Scientists rediscover bird in Arkansas

BY DARLENE MCCORMICK SANCHEZ

miles wide in eastern Arkansas where the ivory-billed woodpecker has been sighted.

"Finding a species once thought extinct is a rare and exciting event, and USDA is pleased to be a partner in the effort to protect ivory-billed woodpeckers," Johanns said. "At the same time, we understand that habitat conservation can impact landowners. That's why we're going to reach out to work cooperatively with stakeholders so we can all share in the joy of this discovery."

Evidence of the ivory-billed woodpecker's existence was gathered during a year-long search in the Cache River and White River NWF. More than 50 experts and field biologists worked as part of the Big Woods Conservation Partnership, led by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University and The Nature Conservancy.

At the Cornell Lab's Web site, the woodpecker's discovery was a cause célèbre. A smorgasbord of behind-the-scenes details of the discovery was available. Experts pored over audio recordings. Eyewitnesses provided accounts of when they saw the elusive woodpecker. The site even provided a video showing a grainy image of the bird, reminiscent of 1970s Sasquatch footage.

Meanwhile, conservation groups lauded the bird's return while pointing out their efforts in preserving natural habitat are to be enjoyed by man, bird and beast.

Don Young, executive vice president of Ducks Unlimited, called the ivory-billed woodpecker's rediscovery a testament to the value of protecting and restoring bottomland hardwood forests.

"These areas are valued recreational locations for thousands of people each year, including hunters," Young said in a news release. "We stand ready to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and others to ensure that this species is protected and the land is open for everyone's enjoyment."

In the world of ornithology, the ivory-billed woodpecker has reached the top of the pecking order after making a stunning comeback.

The bird was not spotted for 60 years in the United States, prompting experts to pronounce it dead as the dinosaur. Then late last month, it suddenly appeared at Cache River National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas, creating the kind of buzz usually reserved for rock stars or heads of state.

Bold headlines splashed across newspapers, news releases from top government brass and big-time conservation groups hit the Internet – the woodpecker even got its own Web link at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

But it's hard to ignore the ivory-billed woodpecker – known as the largest woodpecker in the country and the second largest in the world. Years ago, it thrived in the swampy bottomland hardwood forests of the southeastern United States.

But as bottomland hardwood forests disappeared with urban and agricultural development, the number of ivory-billed woodpeckers declined.

Now that the bird is back, it appears destined to be showered with money and attention.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton and Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced a multi-year, multi-million-dollar partnership effort to aid the bird's survival.

"This is a rare second chance to preserve through cooperative conservation what was once thought lost forever," Norton said. "I will appoint the best talent in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and local citizens to develop a Corridor of Hope Cooperative Conservation Plan to save the ivory-billed woodpecker."

The Corridor of Hope refers to the Big Woods of Arkansas, an area about 120 miles long and up to 20

## ATTWATER'S PRAIRIE CHICKEN PROGRAM GETS \$23,000

A TPW REPORT

Supporters of the Attwater's prairie chicken, which has been an endangered species since 1967, have donated \$23,000 this year to the Adopt-A-Prairie Chicken program to help save the bird.

Attwater's prairie chickens inhabit the tall grass coastal prairies and have been slowly edged out by heavy grazing, farming and urban growth, but with the help of grants funded through donations to the Adopt-A-Prairie Chicken program, the birds are being successfully bred and released.

"The highly endangered Attwater's prairie chicken is currently dependent on captive breeding programs for its continued survival

in Texas," said Mark Klym, Texas Parks and Wildlife coordinator of the Adopt-A-Prairie Chicken program.

Grants, which were selected from proposals by the Attwater's prairie chicken Recovery Team, have been awarded as follows:

- The Fossil Rim Wildlife Center received a \$12,000 grant for its Developing Additional Breeding Pens project.
- An \$8,000 grant was awarded to the REV Project at Texas A&M University in College Station, where graduate student Ellen Collisson is developing a vaccine for the reticuloendotheliosis virus that has been significantly infecting the chickens.
- A \$600 grant was awarded to each of the following five zoos:

the Houston Zoo, the San Antonio Zoo, Sea World San Antonio, the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler and the Abilene Zoo.

"The Adopt-A-Prairie Chicken program is a great way for people to get involved directly in the effort to conserve this highly endangered bird," Klym said. "Reintroduction programs must work hand in hand with habitat restoration programs. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center has certainly been a leader in the reintroduction efforts."

The number of chickens this year was about 40, with about 20 chickens at both the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge and the Texas City Prairie Preserve.

The birds are radio tagged and their progress tracked after their release.

# NATIONAL NEWS

## Taxes Fund Conservation

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REPORT

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced that state fish and wildlife agencies will share more than \$530 million in excise taxes paid by America's recreational shooters, hunters, anglers and boaters to support fish and wildlife conservation and education programs.

The agencies will use the money to support conservation programs such as fish and wildlife monitoring, habitat improvement, acquisition of land for habitat conservation and species protection, research, education, and other programs. The funds also will help pay for hunter safety, aquatic education and fish and wildlife-related recreation projects. The funds are apportioned by formula under two federal assistance programs.

"The Federal Assistance in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs reflect the deep commitment our nation's hunters, sportshooters, anglers and boaters have to conserving fish and wildlife and their habitat," Secretary of the Interior

Gale Norton said. "By supporting these excise taxes, sportsmen and women are contributing critical funds — more than \$9.5 billion over the past 67 years — for maintaining and restoring our fish and wildlife resources."

The wildlife restoration apportionment for 2005 totals more than \$235 million, with more than \$46 million going for hunter education and shooting range programs. The apportionment for sport fish restoration for 2005 totals nearly \$295 million.

Wildlife restoration funds are made available to states based on land area — land plus inland waters, such as lakes and large rivers — and the number of hunting license holders in each state. Distribution of hunter education funds is based on the relative population of each state. The federal agency distributes sport fish restoration funds to the states based on the land and water area — land plus inland water, plus the Great Lakes and marine coastal areas — and the number of fishing license holders in each state.

Federal Assistance funds pay for up to 75 percent of the cost of each project while the states contribute at least 25 percent.

Wildlife restoration is guided by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 and is funded by the collection of excise taxes and import duties on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. States use Wildlife Restoration Program funds to manage wildlife populations, habitat, research, surveys and inventories and to administer hunter education programs.

Sport fish restoration is guided by the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950 and is funded by the collection of excise taxes and import duties on sport fishing equipment and tackle, trolling motors, motorboat and small engine fuels, and pleasure boats. States use sport fish restoration program funds to stock fish, acquire and improve sport fish habitat, provide aquatic resource education opportunities, conduct fisheries research, and build boat ramps, fishing piers and other facilities necessary to provide recreational boating access.

Please visit the Service's Division of Federal Assistance web site at <http://federalaid.fws.gov> for state-by-state funding allocations.

## AFTER 7 DECADES, PRESTIGIOUS WILDLIFE ART COMPETITION MOVES FROM NATION'S CAPITOL TO MEMPHIS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that the 2005 Federal Duck Stamp Art Competition, one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious wildlife art competitions, would be held outside of Washington, D.C. for the first time in its 71-year history.

The next Federal Duck Stamp will be chosen in Memphis Sept. 14-15.

Along with its move to Memphis, the competition will be co-hosted for the first time by Ducks Unlimited and the Greater Memphis Arts Council, creating a regionally unique collaboration of art and wildlife, according to FWS.

A week of special events surrounding the competition begins on Sept. 11, including the Duck Stamp competition and preview, which are free and open to the public, an exhibit of winning art from past competitions, artists' seminars, a family day and a judges' dinner. The week culminates with the Ducks Unlimited Outdoor Expo, set for Sept. 17-18 at the International Agricenter near Ducks Unlimited headquarters.

"We are very excited to work with Ducks Unlimited and the Greater Memphis Arts Council to bring the Federal Duck Stamp Art Competition to Memphis this

year," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acting Director Matt Hogan in a prepared statement. "The Duck Stamp is one of the world's great conservation successes, raising hundreds of millions of dollars to fund important habitat acquisitions for the National Wildlife Refuge System. We hope that by bringing the competition to the banks of the Mississippi River, more Americans can be introduced to the Duck Stamp and the network of public lands it supports."

"This is a great opportunity to tell the Duck Stamp story in an area rich in the traditions and history of duck hunting and a commitment to conservation," said Ducks Unlimited Executive Vice President Don Young in a news release. "The sale of Duck Stamps and wildlife art plays an integral role in providing money for restoring and protecting waterfowl habitat. It's a relationship that Ducks Unlimited members know well, and we're excited to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Greater Memphis Arts Council and the Memphis College of Art to tell the Duck Stamp story. Anyone can support wetlands restoration and protection of waterfowl habitat by purchasing a Duck Stamp. It's that easy."

"We are delighted to partner

with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited to host the oldest and most prominent U.S. government-sponsored art competition," added Susan Schadt, Greater Memphis Arts Council president and CEO. "Given the high level of interest in duck hunting and wildlife conservation in this region, we believe this will be an event that will attract many and bring national recognition to the Memphis area."

Jeff Nesin, Memphis College of Art president, said the exhibition will give the community and city a wonderful opportunity to see the very best of closely observed work from nature. "We are very proud to have it take place at the College of Art," he said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service selects the judges' panel, which is kept secret until the day judging begins. Competition judging begins at 10 a.m. Sept. 14, and continues Sept. 15.

All waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older must possess a Federal Duck Stamp to hunt, but anyone can enjoy its benefits. A valid Duck Stamp provides free admission to any national wildlife refuge in the country that is open to the public.

For more information on the Federal Duck Stamp Program, visit [www.fws.gov/duckstamp](http://www.fws.gov/duckstamp).

## TEEN-AGERS SURVIVED WIND, WATER, SUN AND SHARKS

U.S. Coast Guard to study why lost boat outside computer projections

Two South Carolina teenagers lost in the Atlantic without food and water for six days survived by clinging to the side of their small boat and drinking seawater.

Josh Long, 17, and Troy Driscoll, 15, were rescued after a fishing boat spotted them six miles at sea off Brunswick County in North Carolina, near Cape Fear, according to news reports.

The boys, both Charleston residents, had been the subject of a massive search by the U.S. Coast Guard since they failed to return from a fishing trip April 24.

Eddie Long, Josh's father, said in media interviews that the Coast Guard had given up any

hope of rescue.

"They were preparing us for the bodies to come up," he said.

The two teenagers said they used a wet suit to stay warm at night. During the day they cooled off in the ocean, but sharks would chase them back onto their sailboat.

The teens had drifted more than 100 miles from where they had put in to go fishing at Sullivans Island, S.C., according to news reports. The National Weather Service had issued a warning for small boats to stay out of the water the day the teens set out on their trip.

The teens apparently lost their fishing tackle on the second day they were at sea and couldn't catch any fish. Soon they were

fighting to stay alive.

Their hopes of rescue faded as the days passed. Each time they saw a boat, they would stand on their boat and wave their paddles and yell, but no one saw them. Once they awoke to find a large container boat bearing down on them, media reports said.

The teens thought at one point they had drifted across the Atlantic and were close to Africa. In reality, they were about 100 miles from their launch point. But Coast Guard models had not anticipated their position — something that officials want to study.

Miraculously, they came through with a few cuts, bruises and sunburn.

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# HUNTING

## Texas Trophies' Time To Shine

By RALPH WININGHAM

Trophies that hunting dreams are made of lined an entire wall of the Joe and Harry Freeman Coliseum in San Antonio as Los Cazadores Deer Contest paid tribute to one of the best white-tailed deer seasons in recent memory.

Nearly 300 shoulder mounts and other trophies, billed as the largest display of Texas and Mexico deer taken in a single year, were viewed by hundreds of outdoor enthusiasts April 23, during the first awards ceremony for the contest since it was moved to Pearsall.

"There just wasn't anywhere in Pearsall where we could display all the trophies, so we came to San Antonio," said Larry Weishuhn, heading a group of Texas Wildlife Association members who have taken over the premier big buck contest in the Lone Star State.

"We had more than 4,000 entries (during the 2004-05 season) and we are giving away 500 jackets — that is more than any year in the history of the contest," he added. A deer head must have a Boone and Crockett score at least 160 points to make the hunter eligible for a coveted contest jacket.

"Good rains during the past three years and a good fawn crop about seven years ago, in addition to better management practices, have given us a tremendous big buck population," Weishuhn added.

At the start of the awards ceremony that stretched well into the night, Weishuhn said he was partic-

ularly pleased with the participation of youngsters in the contest and at the coliseum show.

"I wish you all could have seen the faces of these youngsters as they brought in their deer," he told the crowd. "That is what we are all about."

The contest has been paying tribute to successful hunters since it was founded by Darwin Avant in 1986. Avant sold the contest to Weishuhn, an outdoor writer, author and television personality and a handful of other TWA members last April.

In order to expand the operation, the facility was moved from Cotulla to Pearsall, just off of Interstate 35.

The contest that literally means "The Hunters," does not just honor big buck hunters, but also presents awards in several categories to those hunters who have taken does, spikes, hogs and turkeys.

One jacket winner at the event at Freeman Coliseum was Curtis Smith of San Antonio, who won second place in the big hog contest with a 258-pound boar killed in Coke County near San Angelo.

"It is really nice to have this in San Antonio where we can get a good chance to see all these heads," Smith said. "This is a really rare opportunity."

Having a big hand in putting on the display were Eric Buell and Mark Warren, the taxidermists at Los Cazadores who cranked out 77 shoulder mounts, 10 pedestal mounts and a life-sized mount for viewing at the event.

While a normal shoulder mount



**BIGGER IS BETTER:** Los Cazadores taxidermists Eric Buell, right, and Mark Warren show off a full body mount they created as one of nearly 100 of their trophies put on display during the contest award ceremonies. Photo by Ralph Winingham.

can require up to six months to create, Buell and Warren were turning out the trophies in about 10 days to make sure the exhibit would feature some of the year's best racks.

"We had an arrangement with the guy tanning the hides and we were finishing up about two shoulder mounts a day," Buell said. "I'm never really completely happy with the way they turn out, but there are a lot of good heads here."

In addition to the display of trophies, several dozen outdoor-relat-

ed representatives were displaying their wares to the crowd that flowed into the coliseum.

Among the outfitters, all-terrain vehicle and clothing exhibitors attracting attention was the SageCanyon Systems Camouflage booth manned by Marc Overton and John Presley of Fort Worth.

"We've just been in the business for about a year and this is a great way for us to get out and meet the public," Overton said.

He said their camouflage is hori-

zontally oriented, rather than the vertically oriented clothing for wooded areas, and provides better cover for hunters in sagebrush and other locations where trees are scarce.

"We really appreciate this kind of opportunity. We expect this will just get bigger and better every year," Overton said.

*Ralph Winingham is an outdoor writer and photographer based in San Antonio.*

Continued from page 1

### Turkey Season

has heard sad turkey tales this season.

While cautioning that the spring turkey seasons have just concluded and that the final analysis isn't in, Schwertner said that his impression of reports from biologists and hunters that he has talked to so far is a season of mixed hunting results.

"I've heard reports like that on both Rio Grandes and Easterns both," Schwertner said.

Why is that?  
"Anything I'd say would be just a guess, but I've heard a lot about the weather playing a factor," Schwertner said. "Really what I've heard is that they were gobbling early, they were gobbling late, or they were gobbling unpredictably and it was a hit-or-miss proposition, not as much in place but in time."

In other words, the birds could be wound up gobbling one day, only to fall silent the next day on the same lease.

How about an early grade on the recently completed season?

"I'd hate to grade it this early," Schwertner said. "I haven't gotten a lot of feedback yet, but I would probably rate it as about average. But the jury is still out because all of the reports (aren't in)."

But as always in hunting, the recent silence of the toms experienced by a number of Lone Star State hunters could turn into a vocal one next spring should the toms decide to talk turkey.

*Lynn Burkhead is a frequent contributor to Lone Star Outdoor News and an associate editor for ESPNOdoors.com.*



**TOUGH TURKEY:** A turkey hunter calls to birds but gets no answer last weekend.



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## Jolly Good Shot Old Chap

By RALPH WININGHAM

Kidney pie and warm beer came out on top of barbecue and cold Lone Stars as George Digweed from the United Kingdom won the 2005 World English Sporting Clays Championship here.

Earning the top gun title with a score of 202 out of 225 targets that included a 25-target shoot off between the top six competitors, Digweed bested a field of 604 competitors to continue England's domination of the championship that travels across the Atlantic Ocean every other year. This is Digweed's second victory in the U.S. competition.

Coming close to edging the English at the shooting sport they invented was Joseph Carey of New Jersey, who tied with fellow American Wendell Cherry with a high score of 184 out of 200 during the main event. Carey finished third overall, with the runner up position going to Jamie Brightman, also from the United Kingdom, following the 25-target shoot off.

"I trained very hard before coming here because I had not shot for about six months," Digweed said after his win May 1 at the National Shooting Complex in western Bexar County.

"The target presentations were excellent for this event. Every one was hittable and every one was missable," he added. He shot a 91 on the first day and a 92 on the second.

No U.S. citizen has ever won the World English championship. In addition to his two U.S. wins, Digweed is a multiple winner of the event when it has been held in England.

Hopes of an upset by the "Yanks"

were fueled by a good showing on the first day of the event, with three Americans and three Englishmen claiming the top six high scores.

In addition to Carey, who is the 2004 National Sporting Clays Association national champion, and Cherry, the third U.S. top shooter was Anthony Matarese, also a native of New Jersey.

Digweed, Brightman and Ben Husthwaite were the top three shooters from the United Kingdom.

Sporting clays is a shooting game developed to simulate wild bird and game hunting, with clay targets thrown in a variety of angles and heights - even some bouncing on the ground - to challenge even the best shotgunner's talents.

In the team competition, the U.S. five-man, junior, veteran and ladies' teams all won their divisions over the U.K., Jamaican, Mexico and Wales teams.

The three-day competition was held April 29 through May 1 at the complex, which is the largest all-around shooting facility in the country.

Weather conditions during the competition were typical of the changing South Texas climate, with a scorching 93 high the first day followed by lows in the 50s and gusty north winds up to 30 miles per hour the next morning.

On the third day, nearly ideal shooting conditions with sunny highs in the mid-70s allowed shooters from throughout the world to demonstrate their skills.

In addition to the 70 competitors from the United Kingdom, there were 16 from Wales; 14 from Mexico; 11 from Jamaica; three each from South Africa and Canada; and two each from Australia and Russia.



ABUNDANT: White-winged dove populations are growing in urban areas.

## State Agency Eyeing Potential Dove Hunting Changes

Proposed regs would create new dove zones

By LYNN BURKHEAD

A growing population of white-winged dove could mean the creation of a new southern hunting zone for Texas dove hunters this fall.

Texas Parks and Wildlife officials have proposed the creation of a South White-winged Dove Area in part to address the rising numbers of white-winged dove in their core territory.

The new South White-winged Dove Area would generally be found within an area of deep south Texas bordered by a line running from near Del Rio to San Antonio to Corpus Christi, then south along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline to the Rio Grande River, and up the Rio Grande River to near Del Rio again.

If approved by federal authorities this summer, this new area would offer dove hunting on the first two complete weekends in September - Sept. 3-4 and Sept. 10-11, 2005, specifically.

In addition, dove hunting would then be allowed for 49 consecutive days from Sept. 23 to Nov. 10, 2005 and for 17 consecutive days from Dec. 26, 2005 until Jan. 11, 2006 if the green light is given by federal authorities.

If approved, the new white-winged region would allow legal shooting hours of noon to sunset during the first two weekends of hunting. That would then be followed by dove hunting's standard hours of a half-hour before sunrise to sunset for the other proposed season dates.

Bag limits would also take some getting used to if the new dove hunting area is actually approved.

During the first two weekends of hunting in the newly proposed area, a total of 12 white-winged, mourning, and white-tipped doves would be allowed in the daily aggregate, including no more than three mourning doves and two white-tipped doves per day.

For the remainder of the proposed South White-winged Dove Area season, the bag limit would be 12 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, including no more than two white-tipped doves per day.

Why the new proposals?

TPW wildlife program leader Jay Roberson explains: "Basically, we're trying to capitalize on a larger white-winged dove population in south Texas," Roberson said. "We're trying to expand the white-wing (hunting) zone, which used to run along the Rio Grande River corridor. Now, we're trying to expand that into half to two-thirds of South Texas."

While the white-winged dove has expanded its range across much of the Lone Star State in recent years, Roberson indicates that the birds are "back-building" population numbers into the core of their

range where numbers and densities continue to increase.

"Basically, (we think) they're an underutilized resource for hunting," Roberson said.

If the new white-winged dove hunting zone is approved, the TPW biologist is hopeful that such a move will ease frustration felt by some hunters in recent years.

"It's a way of easing the inequities and disparity for dove hunters on the south side of Hwy. 90," Roberson said.

As part of the changes, the usual South Zone that dove hunters have grown accustomed to would be dropped and a new Southeast Zone would be created.

The boundaries of the new zone would include that portion of the state lying within an area generally south of a line running from near Orange to San Antonio to Corpus Christi.

So will federal regulators approve the changes?

Roberson said the move will likely hinge on federal biologists' concern for what type of impact the regulations would have on early mourning dove numbers in the newly proposed white-winged hunting area.

"I suspect they'll want some pretty expansive nesting studies in that

zone," Roberson said. "They may say two birds (mourning doves) or they could come in and say no, not until more studies are done."

In the northern two thirds of the state, it's pretty standard regulation fare.

In the North Zone, the agency is proposing a season of 60 consecutive days running from Sept. 1 to Oct. 30, 2005.

The proposed daily bag limit for the North Zone would allow 15 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate including no more than two white-tipped doves per day.

In the Central Zone, TPW is proposing a season of 60 consecutive days from Sept. 1 to Oct. 30, 2005. That first split would then be followed by a late season split consisting of 10 consecutive days from Dec. 26, 2005, to Jan. 4, 2006.

As for daily bag limits in the Central Zone, the agency is proposing 12 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate including no more than two white-tipped doves per day.

Editor's Note: For specific boundary lines and full details, see TPWD's Web site at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/involved/pubhear/0405/reg.htm#2a>.



BURSTING IN AIR: A clay target shatters when an expert hits his mark.

## 2005 NATIONAL BENEFIT SHOOT SET FOR NEXT MONTH IN SAN ANTONIO

Shooters from around the country will converge on the National Shooting Complex June 7-8 in San Antonio for the 2005 International Hunter Education Association Benefit Shoot.

The annual event raises money to broaden the scope of hunter education. In its sixth year, more than 100 three-person teams are expected.

The competition features two main events: the Sportsman's Challenge and the Team Event. Each event consists of 75 sporting clay targets, 50 trap and 25 skeet per shooter. Awards are given for best individual score and for best team score. One male and one female shooter will be presented the

Shooting Star Award, given to the outstanding shooter who participates in both the Sportsman's Challenge and Team Event.

All money raised through the benefit goes to support the IHEA and its endowment fund. With the help of the National Shooting Sports Foundation and last year's shooting event, the IHEA has raised more than \$1 million in five years. IHEA is the official organization representing the interests of 69 state, provincial, and federal hunter education coordinators, and 70,000 hunter education instructors who teach hunter safety, ethics, and conservation to approximately 750,000 students each year.



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# FISHING

## Catfish Time in Texas!

Spring whiskerfish spawn approaching; good angling can be found across much of the state

BY LYNN BURKHEAD

**B**lame it on Splash, the 121-pound, 8-ounce blue catfish that Cody Mullenix pulled from the waters of Lake Texoma in January 2004.

That behemoth whiskerfish – an International Game Fish Association world record, a state rod-and-reel record, and one of the most popular attractions at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens – has helped to bring the Lone Star State's superb catfishing resources very much into angling's spotlight.

And for good reason. While the catch of a world record blue is certainly stop-the-presses material, the truth is that good catfishing opportunity exists virtually from one end of Texas to the other. Take North Texas, for instance. That's where Texas Parks and Wildlife Department inland fisheries biologist Bruce Hysmith says that anglers are gearing up for the annual whiskerfish spawn.

"Yep, it's approaching," Hysmith said. "During the spawn, they can be found along windy banks, but the best thing that they like is inflowing water on tributaries. They'll really crowd into inflowing water where they'll move up in

there and look for hollow logs, rock overhangs, and stuff like that."

The key, as with most springtime fish spawns, is the water temperature.

"For channel catfish, look for water in the 75- to 78-degree range," Hysmith said. "I would say that the blues would probably spawn a little bit quicker than that since they are less tolerant of low oxygen conditions. The warmer the water is, the lower the oxygen content of the water will be, so I'd look for (blues) to spawn first."

In Hysmith's opinion, catfish anglers in the northern part of the state should be targeting the mid-May to mid-June time frame. Of course, the farther south a whiskerfish angler is wetting a hook, the earlier the catfish spawn will be.

What are the best techniques for anglers to employ if they're looking for a limit of tasty catfish filets? While the biologist admits that traditional stink-bait catfish lures certainly have their place, he prefers something that isn't quite so smelly.

"I would use live crawfish," Hysmith said. "The crawfish is a little cleaner and a little more user-friendly."

That's especially true when a crawfish is fished weightless, allowing it to move around and attract



**BOYS FISHING:** Catfish season is great for kids looking for spring fun.

the attention of a hungry whiskerfish.

"If you had to use a weight, I'd use a slip sinker so that the crawfish would still have the freedom to move about," Hysmith said. "Don't use a real heavy hook since you want that crawfish moving around. You don't want him immobilized."

Whatever the bait that a catfish angler chooses to use, it's advisable to keep the hook well covered.

"If they feel the hook, they'll spit it," Hysmith said.

What time of day is best? The biologist recommends later in the day when dissolved oxygen is at its highest level.

"I would pick the afternoon, the early evening, or night on up until

midnight," Hysmith said. "From midnight on, natural dissolved oxygen tends to decline and it might or might not affect the fishing because they (may be less inclined to feed)."

While expansive water bodies like Lake Amistad, Choke Canyon Lake, Lake Livingston, Possum Kingdom Lake, and Lake Texoma can all produce good catfishing action, Hysmith encourages anglers not to overlook smaller lakes in Texas.

In his region of the state, such diminutive waters as Lake Coffee Mill, Lake Davy Crockett, and Lake Nocona are all top whiskerfish locations that can be overlooked.

Also, Hysmith reminds anglers not to overlook the countless farm

ponds or stock tanks scattered across every region of Texas. Such spots provide many an afternoon of angling delight as rod-and-reel totting kids squeal, a red-and-white bobber disappears, and the fight is on!

Keep in mind on such water bodies that since catfish will move around, it often pays to wait them out if the action gets a little slow.

"Catfish will move around by school size, so in other words, a school of 18- to 20-inchers will move around together," Hysmith said. "You might be sitting on the bank not catching anything, but 10 minutes later, you might start pulling them out one right after another."

### LEAD PAINT FOUND ON KIDS' FISHING RODS

Manufacturer cooperates with federal safety agency

**Z**ebco has announced a recall of 1.5 million children's fishing rods tainted with lead paint.

The recall is voluntary in cooperation with the federal Consumer Products Safety Commission.

Lead is toxic if eaten by young children, and it can cause adverse health effects.

The recalled fishing poles are brightly colored and feature pictures of cartoon characters on the reels, including SpongeBob Squarepants and Dora the Explorer.

The rods were sold between August 2001 and March 2005 at discount department stores, sporting goods stores and toy stores nationwide.

They cost between \$9 and \$13. The rods were made in China. For more information call Zebco at (800) 444-5581, ext. 6217, between 6 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.



**SNAP TO IT:** The federal season for snapper ends in October.

### SNAPPER SEASON SETS QUOTA

**T**he National Marine Fisheries Service has announced the re-opening of the recreational fishery for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico. For federal waters, which begin nine nautical miles from the Texas shoreline, the season opened at 12:01 a.m. local time on April 21, 2005, and remain open until midnight Oct. 31, 2005, when the recreational quota of 4.47 mil-

lion pounds is projected to be caught.

In federal waters, anglers should note there is a 16-inch minimum size limit and four fish daily bag limit, which includes the captain and crew of for-hire vessels. Texas waters, within nine nautical miles from the Texas shoreline, are open through out the year, but with a 15-inch minimum size limit.

### ANGLERS REEL IN PAYDAY WORTH MORE THAN \$1,000 PER POUND OF REDFISH

**K**evin Sahadi and Kevin Shaw, both of Corpus Christi, caught a two-day total of four redfish weighing 32 pounds, 7 ounces to win \$37,500 in the Wal-Mart FLW Redfish Series Western Division in Port Aransas.

The event was presented by Yamaha. The Sahadi and Shaw team earned \$25,000 plus an additional \$12,500 for the powered-by-Yamaha bonus award. Shaw and Sahadi were competing against a field of 117 teams.

"We've been on some fish in the Sulfur Road Flats area for a month now," Sahadi said. "I went there each day to be sure the fish were still there in all types of weather, and then I'd leave them alone."

Once the event began, Sahadi said the team would begin the morning by casting Renegade topwater lures and then switch to soft-plastic offerings later in the day. Key baits for Shaw and Sahadi included D.O.A. CAL Series soft plastics in silver mullet and electric chicken colors on an 1/8-ounce jighead, according to a FLW's Web site.

The team stayed in the same area all day on both days of the event. According to Sahadi, the

area was sandy and 2 to 3 feet deep with scattered grass, where the redfish were gathered to feed on crabs.

Rounding out the top five teams are Kurt Kolida of Port Lavaca and Michael Shimek of Bay City, (four redfish, 31 pounds, 12 ounces, \$9,600); Steven Auld Jr. of Baytown and Jeff Larson of Friendswood (four redfish, 29 pounds, 15 ounces, \$5,475); Kirk Kuykendall of Houston and Jeff Schneider of Bellaire (four redfish, 29 pounds, 10 ounces, \$4,475); and Skipper Mock of South Padre Island and Eddie Curry of Laguna Vista (four redfish, 28 pounds, 1 ounce, \$4,150).

Anglers caught a total of 167 redfish weighing 867 pounds, 14 ounces on the final day of the event.

The next FLW Redfish Series Western Division event will be held June 24-25 in Grand Isle, La.

Named after founder of Ranger Boats, Forrest L. Wood, FLW Outdoors administers national tournament circuits offering a combined \$30 million in awards through 214 events in 2005.

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## Port Mansfield Left Hanging Out to Dry

By DAVID SIKES

Deep-sea angler Fred Hornsby is extra careful these days when negotiating the mouth of a shrinking Port Mansfield Pass in his offshore boat. But then, he's familiar with the shallow spots and knows to hug the northern edge.

A handful of Hornsby's fellow boat captains have been unable to avoid peril while motoring through this neglected waterway between Port Mansfield and the Gulf of Mexico. At least one boat, Hornsby said, crashed into the jetty rocks that guard this remote South Texas pass.

Other large-boat owners have averted risks either by not using the pass altogether or by leaving Port Mansfield's harbor for other ports where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides safer big-water access. Whether these anglers return will depend on the success of a desperate campaign to save the pass.

"My customers want to know what's going to happen," said Roy Brown, who owns a Port Mansfield boat barn harboring 20 offshore fishing vessels. "Information is hard to come by and there's not even a sign out there to warn boaters of the hazard. It's getting to be a real danger. If we don't get the channel dredged this place will dry up."

Brown said that about two years ago, the Corps of Engineers posted a letter listing Port Mansfield Pass as one of many mostly smaller recreational or non-commercial passes that it no longer would be dredging because of a funding shortfall. The Corps of Engineers, which has maintained the pass for 40 years, has not dredged the Port Mansfield Pass since 1999, according to Port Director Mike Wilson, with the Willacy County Navigation District.

Parts of the once 16-foot-deep pass have silted in to maximum depths of about seven feet, with much of the channel even shallower, Wilson said. This makes passage for deep-draft vessels dangerous during low tide or when swells pitch and roll the boats near the channel floor. Navigation could be especially treacherous when these conditions converge, Hornsby said.

Couple this problem with a lingering bloom of brown algae that has clouded mostly western Laguna Madre waters near Port Mansfield and it could be a tough summer for this small community that relies heavily on visiting anglers to fuel its economy.

"There's no other reason for Port Mansfield to exist without that channel and the harbor," Wilson said. "We've already seen an exodus of big boats."

Adding to Port Mansfield's woes, sand is eroding rapidly along the jetty rocks that protect the pass'

northern bank, which marks the southern border of Padre Island National Seashore.

Wilson said the Navigation District's preferred solution for the pass itself would be to convince the Corps of Engineers that the economic hardship of not dredging is greater than the economic liability of maintaining the pass. But Wilson knows that military needs and other priorities may have created insurmountable funding constraints for the Corps of Engineers.

Plan B would be to request U.S. Congressional help. Wilson said that dredging the pass would carry a price tag of between \$1 million and \$2 million. Wilson is seeking help from U.S. Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchinson and John Cornyn.

Hutchinson hopes to convince the Corps of Engineers to shift existing funds to the Port Mansfield project by convincing them it should be a high priority for hardship reasons, according to spokesman Chris Paulitz.

"The Corps told us they'd look into it," Paulitz said.

Part of Wilson's argument to garner aid involves a U.S. Coast Guard cutter that cannot float through the shallow pass. Historically this 87-foot cutter that drafts 10 feet has used the pass to seek foul weather refuge in Port Mansfield or for law enforcement operations involving drug trafficking or illegal immigration. The next nearest pass is Brazos Santiago Pass some 30 miles south by water at Port Isabel.

Another option could be to apply for erosion-control monies from the Texas General Land Office. But this program has no money for future projects at this time, according to GLO spokesman Jim Suydam. And even when the program was viable, only a fraction of requests were granted. During the most recent funding cycle, the coastal erosion program doled out \$7.3 million for 20 projects. The program received funding requests for \$36.5 million from 77 projects.

Suydam said the GLO is pushing for legislation that could revive the program, possibly by collecting a 75-cent fee on each tire sold in Texas. Maybe if this passes, Port Mansfield's chances would improve, Suydam said.

Meanwhile, Wilson has appealed to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, which uses the pass to transport artificial reef material into the gulf, and the Coastal Conservation Association for suggestions and he's exploring the possibility of a short-term fix funded by local money. This would be a long shot for the economically depressed community, local business owners said.

"My boat's in there too," business owner Brown said. "If I can't get it out to go fishing then I'm gone too."

## Rough Water Boating

Continued from page 1



**SAFE DRIVING:** Boaters on Texas lakes are likely to experience high winds before storms. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

## When the Going Gets Rough...

STAFF REPORT

Warm spring weather is bringing Texas boaters out again in numbers to pursue their water passions.

However, it's also the season in which Texas weather can turn on a dime, and even the most experienced boaters can find themselves in unexpected foul weather. So what do you do when you're caught in a storm?

Get to shore as quickly as possible is the rule of thumb — but that may be easier said than done. But experts say there are several techniques that can help you get out of a jam:

Reduce speed, put on a personal flotation device and plan your route to shore. U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices are required by law for every occupant of the boat. For motorboats under 26 feet in length any occupant under 13 years of age is required to wear a life jacket any time the boat is under way. TPW

and the U.S. Coast Guard report that about 85 percent of boating fatalities are the result of the victims not wearing life jackets.

As for planning the route to shore, professional bass fisherman Dean Rojas said to slow down and take your time.

"Watch the wave and try to judge if it's going to get bigger," Rojas said. "Tack back and forth, zigzag. Shorelines are usually calmer. Head for shore and use protected shoreline to your advantage — don't worry if it takes longer to get back to dock. Know the water that you're on — think about hidden dangers such as underwater treetops."

Seat passengers on the bottom of the boat near the center line. Proper weight distribution improves handling, and passengers are less likely to fall overboard.

Secure loose items and have emergency gear ready. Stow fishing tackle and secure items like coolers and tackle boxes. Rough water can make loose items dangerous projectiles. Keep bilges clear of water. A boat carrying water does not handle as well as it is designed to.

Head the bow into waves at about a 40-degree angle. Driving parallel to waves can cause the boat to rock violently from side to side, decreasing control. Of course, it also ups the possibility of the vessel becoming swamped.

Donny Hancock of Skeeter Boats' pro team advises that if your boat motor has adjustable trim, use it.

"Adjust the trim angle on your motor for the most comfortable ride," Donny said. "The less mass you have when you come over a wave, the further down that bow is going to go. You want the forward portion of the bow at the deepest point to be hitting the waves. Some people have a tendency to overtrim. If you are hitting the waves further back, say by the console, you're going to lose some fillings from your teeth. You want to have the best speed for the smoothest ride."

If the engine fails, anchor the boat. You cannot control a motorboat when the engine fails. Drop anchor, remain calm and wait for assistance. Use a signal flare if one's available. And above all, don't panic.

## TPWD SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETINGS ABOUT GOLDEN ALGA

Texas Parks and Wildlife is holding six public meetings during May in areas hit hardest by golden alga to discuss strategies.

Agency officials will provide updates on golden alga research projects, discuss fisheries management plans and ask the public for input.

Golden alga blooms during the last six months have caused fish-kills in more than a dozen water bodies in north-central Texas. None of the occurrences has resulted in serious impacts to the fisheries, but they have provided researchers with opportunities to study actual

events in hopes of finding solutions to this naturally occurring threat.

Since 2001, golden alga fish-kills have occurred on two dozen reservoirs in Texas. About 18 million fish have been killed by golden alga during the last 20 years, most of which were either forage or rough fish species.

The alga releases a toxin that kills gill-breathing organisms such as fish and clams. There is no known evidence of human health risks.

First discovered in Texas in 1985, golden alga (*prymnesium parvum*) was identified in a fish kill in the Pecos River and has since been

responsible for fish kills in the Colorado, Canadian, Wichita, Red and Brazos river systems as well.

Public meetings are slated for the following dates and locations. All meetings start at 7 p.m.

- May 17 — Possum Kingdom Lion's Club, 142 LaVilla Road, Lake Possum Kingdom.
- May 18 — Baylor County Extension Office, 500 N. Main, Seymour.
- May 24 — Annex 3 Building, 200 N. Gordon, Granbury.
- May 25 — Lake Whitney State Park Reunion Center, 433 FM 1244, Whitney.



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# ADVENTURE



**PARADISE FOUND:** Sunset puts the finishing touch on a perfect day for fishing in Rockport, Texas.

## Destination Rockport

BY RALPH WININGHAM

**R**OCKPORT — This was a fish mission.

Not just the fish we were going to use for bait — those speckled trout and redfish magnets known as croakers — but also the fish we were going to eat as part of a weekend escape to a Texas Gulf Coast fishing hot spot.

This time of year is croaker season across the bays and inlets scattered like play areas in a toddler's dreamland. Anglers who favor live bait travel from throughout the country as fast and as often as they can to take advantage of this fishing paradise.

Croaker season normally runs

from about the middle of May until the end of August each year. It is the time when the baitfish and natural enemy of the nesting speckled trout reach their best fish-attracting size.

"Copano Bay is my favorite place to fish. That's the water that I know best," said Capt. Petra Schultz as she prepared to launch her boat in the early morning light.

A veteran fishing guide who was the first Rockport woman to earn her captain's license, Petra and her husband, Capt. Don Schultz, work as a tag team to put their clients in the best spots for free-lining live croakers.

The night before at a dinner organized by the Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce, they

entertained the group with fishing stories as we all ate more shrimp and crab-stuffed grilled trout than should be allowed by law at Off the Hook Restaurant.

The Green Hornets, as they call themselves, explained that two sets of experienced eyes on the water at one time could greatly enhance their anglers' success rate.

With our first goal of eating our fill of fish accomplished at the restaurant overlooking Cove Harbor, the Schultz team was put on the spot to achieve the next task of connecting us with some live ones.

After a short boat ride from the dock, Petra hooked up the first of five dozen live croakers that she had brought for bait.

"Just flip the croaker out there, let it set for about 30 seconds and then pump your rod a couple of times," she said. "That will keep the croaker out of the oyster shells."

With no weight or floats to hinder the croaker, the bait's movements are more natural and drive trout and reds into a feeding frenzy.

"You'll know when you get a hit. Just keep the rod tip up and the line tight, or they will shake the hook," she said.

The words had barely reached our ears when a 17-inch trout slammed down one of the baits and made a fruitless run for freedom.

"That's a good one to start the day," Petra said as she dropped the trout into the boat's ice chest. The action was repeated about two dozen times, featuring mostly keeper trout and a couple of nice redfish, before we headed back to the dock shortly after noon.

A bag full of fresh fillets on ice, we finished our coastal fish quest with a stop at The Boiling Pot in Fulton, where Cajun boiled shrimp and crawfish, along with corn on the cob and new potatoes, were dumped on our table for another seafood feast.

Seafood in our stomachs and fish fillets in our ice chests — now that is the way to spend a weekend.



**WAYS TO GO:** Wading and kayaking are popular ways to fish coastal waters.



**FREE ADVICE:** Colorful bait stands line the shore at Rockport.



**BITE SIZE:** Croaker season draws live bait anglers from across the country.

### IF YOU GO

Captains Don and Petra Schultz, The Green Hornets, offer fishing trips and have just opened their Hornet's Nest for overnight stays by their clients. They can be reached at (361) 790-9742 or on the web at [www.greenhornetguides.com](http://www.greenhornetguides.com).

Other fishing guides can be found at Coastal Bend's Guide Association at [www.cbga.org](http://www.cbga.org).

Off The Hook Restaurant at 161 Cove Harbor North is accessible by boat or car and is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Their phone number is (361) 729-8300.

The Boiling Pot in downtown Fulton opens at 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. Friday through Sunday. Their telephone number is (316) 729-6972.

Centrally located accommodations in Rockport include the Hoopes' House Bed and Breakfast at 417 N. Broadway (just across from Rockport Harbor and Rockport Beach Park). Listed in the state register of historic places, the facility offers eight guest rooms and a full complimentary breakfast. Operators Mike and Paula Sargent can be reached at (361) 729-8424.

Additional information on the area is available from the Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce at (800) 242-0071 or [www.rockport-fulton.org](http://www.rockport-fulton.org).

## Statewide Land Steward Of The Year To Be Announced

Dallas park receives honor for first time

On May 25 at the Omni Southpark Hotel in Austin, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will announce the statewide land steward of the year.

The state will also recognize 11 land stewards, including nine private ranchers in various ecological regions, plus a cooperative category recognizing landowners who band together to help wildlife, and a corporate recipient, according to TPW.

The Lone Star Land Steward Awards program recognizes and honors private landowners for their accomplishments in habitat management and wildlife conservation. The program is designed to educate landowners and the public and to encourage participation in habitat conservation.

For the first time since the program was created in 1996, TPW has selected an urban city park as a model of land stewardship. White Rock Lake Park in Dallas will be recognized in the corporate category.

"It's important that people understand the key to diverse and abundant wildlife is well-managed habitats, and in Texas that occurs mostly on private land, since 94 percent of the Texas landscape is privately owned," said Linda Campbell, TPWD private lands program leader.

"However, wildlife conservation can and does happen in public parks and in urban and suburban

areas, as the White Rock Lake example shows. And those examples are important to educate the majority of people who live in cities, as well as to actually provide some valuable habitat for wildlife in urban settings."

The importance of private stewardship to preserve history and cultural resources is also emphasized this year with the selection of Cibolo Creek Ranch as the Trans-Pecos eco-region recipient.

### LAND STEWARD PROGRAM OBJECTIVES STRIVE TO:

- recognize private landowners for excellence in habitat management and wildlife conservation on their lands;
- publicize the best examples of sound natural resource management practices;
- encourage youth education and participation in promoting responsible habitat management and improved ecosystem health;
- promote long-term conservation of unique natural and cultural resources;
- promote ecosystem awareness and acknowledge the best conservation practices in the state's 10 ecological regions;
- enhance relationships between private landowners and Texas natural resource agencies;
- illustrate the important role of private landowners in the future of Texas natural resources.

Continued from page 1

### Perry signs bill

Worth city limits. The property, still mostly rural, was annexed in the 1980s.

A poacher apparently parked by the road, walked up to the fence line and began shooting, Merrill said.

"Obviously, residents called police," Merrill said. "I would have, too. Police came out, pistols drawn, and the first person they encountered was a lease hunter with his 9-year-old son. He wasn't arrested, but they scared the living daylight out of him."

But a new state law signed by Gov. Rick Perry will change all that. Now hunters' rights will be protected for generations to come.

The new law will permit hunting on land annexed by cities, even if a city has an ordinance banning the shooting of firearms. The law, which adds "wildlife management" to the list of activities permitted on agricultural land, took effect May 3. It grandfathered in all land annexed since 1981.

The law, formerly Senate Bill 734, sponsored in the House by Rep. Anna Mowery, R-Forth Worth, and in the Senate by Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, isn't likely to turn annexed property into badlands.

Hunting with a shotgun must be done on property that is at least 10 acres; if you use a rifle or pistol, 50 acres or more. And firearms can't be discharged within 150 feet of an occupied structure or "in a manner" causing a projectile to cross the property line.

Dade Phelan, a legislative aide to Williams, called the law "model legislation," which he expects to be copied by other states.

"Cities and towns annex property that may not be developed for years," Phelan said. "But one day the land can be used for dove or deer hunting, and the next day it can't."

Phelan sees the law as a balancing act. "There needs to be a good balance between the property owner's rights and what the city needs to do to protect its citizens," he said. "That's what this bill is all about."

Although the Texas Municipal Association opposed the law, Phelan contends the law doesn't leave cities defenseless.

"If someone is misusing a firearm or endangering anyone, a peace officer will be able to take action," Phelan said.

One supporter of the law believes another beneficiary of it will be wildlife.

"If you take away hunting income from a landowner, force him to just depend on his income from agriculture, he's going to sell out to a developer and leave," said Kirby Brown, executive vice president of the Texas Wildlife Association. "It's the worst thing for the habitat. We want to encourage what is already there, not diminish it."

Merrill leases 2,500 acres of his 3,000 acres for hunting. He restricts bird hunters to shotguns and forbids them to litter or build fires.

"The land will be hunted," Merrill said. "I can guarantee you that. The question is: Do you want it hunted by lawbreakers or do you want a controlled situation?"

Mark England is an award-winning Dallas-based writer with more than two decades of newspaper experience.

## MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN DEER-TRAPPING CASE

A TPW REPORT

A six-month long investigation conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife's special operations wildlife crimes unit came to a close during the last few days with Larry Grimland of the Dallas area being charged with 20 counts of illegally trapping wild white-tailed deer from his Bosque County ranch.

Grimland was apprehended by TPW Investigators Sgts. Adam Chrane and Brad Chappell for illegally delivering and selling three whitetailed deer in Bosque County, according to TPW. The next morning a search warrant was executed on Grimland's ranch where records were seized indicating Grimland had sold numerous wild white-tailed deer for the last several

years, netting thousands of dollars.

In a plea agreement reached, Grimland has agreed to cooperate with investigators, pay \$40,000 in fines and make a \$40,000 contribution to the Operation Game Thief fund. An additional 45 charges have been filed against 10 individuals that purchased illegal deer from Grimland.

In a spinoff investigation, Bosque County resident David Deeley agreed to pay \$10,000 in fines and make a \$6,000 contribution to Operation Game Thief fund. Deeley was charged with five counts of illegally trapping wild white-tailed deer. Bryan Hanus, a Bosque County deer hauler, was arrested on felony arrest warrants for "felon in possession of a firearm, and tampering with physical evidence," both 3rd degree felonies. Hanus was placed in the Bosque County jail with

bonds set at \$10,000 per charge.

The scope of this investigation revealed illegal white-tailed deer commerce over a significant portion of Texas and showed the importance of having a centralized investigative group such as TPW's Special Operations Unit. The unit received invaluable assistance from game wardens throughout the state in conducting interviews and taking statements.

Bosque County prosecuted the cases and game wardens Preston Spiller and Mike Sibila provided the initial lead.

Col. Pete Flores said, "This investigation serves as a deterrent to those who engage in the illegal commerce of Texas' wildlife resources. This case also safeguards the legitimate interests of deer managers and conservation in Texas."

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# Bass Pro Shops Gives \$650,000 to Athens Freshwater Fish Center

Outdoor education to be highlight of state-run facility

**B**ass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris recently presented a check for \$650,000 as part of a total \$1.36 million donated to speed up construction on an education building for the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.

Morris pledged at an April 3, 2004, banquet to match dollar-for-dollar, up to \$650,000, funds raised by April 16, 2005, by Schooling for Bass, a Dallas support group headed by Richard ("Dick") Hart. The volunteer group responded by raising \$711,000, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"This check isn't from one person; it comes from a lot of people," Morris said. "It comes from the people at Bass Pro Shops. It comes from our customers."

Formally called the Edwin L. Cox Jr. Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, the facility combines visitation and outdoor education with a production fish hatchery. The freshwater fisheries facility is part of the Inland Fisheries Division of TPW.

The center's director Allen Forshage noted: "With completion of this new \$1.5 million educational facility, TFFC will have an outdoor education center unmatched in North America."

Built as a joint venture between TPW, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, Inc., and the community of Athens, TFFC includes a wetlands trail and more than 300,000 gallons of indoor and outdoor aquariums displaying dozens of species of native fish, waterfowl, alligators and amphibians in recreated habitats.

TFFC invites both individual and group visitation. Reservations are recommended for groups of 10 or more. Admission is charged. Public hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

Other organizations and individuals contributing to the building fund were Kathie and Ed Cox Jr., Eric Kincaid, ExxonMobil Foundation, Cain Foundation, Ginger Murchison Foundation, Hillcrest Foundation, Sheila and Walter Umphrey, Friona Industries, Hoblitzelle Foundation, Cathy and Don Humphreys, Texas Game Warden Association and J.B. Katz Foundation.

## OKIES PROVE THEMSELVES AT SAM RAYBURN 2005 CITGO BASSMASTER CENTRAL OPEN BUT TEXANS HOLD THEIR OWN

**T**he Texans may have dominated day two at Sam Rayburn Reservoir in the season opener of the CITGO Bassmaster Open Series, but the final round belonged to a pair of Oklahomans: Terry Butcher and Jeff Kriet.

Butcher took home \$53,316 and a measure of redemption for his first BASS win, according to Bassmaster's Web site.

"I was so close at Clarks Hill," Butcher said of the tour event on the South Carolina-Georgia reservoir where he finished third. "But I feel great winning this tournament. I can forget all about those

close calls now."

Butcher, who finished with a three day catch weighing 47 pounds and an ounce, was in eighth place after the second day, but bagged a limit of 17 pounds, 1 ounce on day three — good enough to best Kriet (46-0) by a little more than a pound. Kriet weighed in last, and his 13-pound, 7-ounce limit made things interesting, but it was the fish that Kriet missed that will haunt him.

Butcher won the tournament by flipping a jig near willow trees and looking for post-spawn fish. Most of his bass came from less than 4 feet of water.

"Don't get me wrong. I'm happy to finish second," Kriet said. "But I'm so frustrated right now because I lost this tournament on the second day. I lost a 5-pounder and a 3-pounder within 30 minutes of each other."

Kriet was flipping a black Kinami cut-tail worm on light line around isolated bushes. He's had a bevy of close calls lately, finishing in the top 15 of each of the past four BASS events, but never winning, and his lost fish left the door open for Butcher at Sam Rayburn.

Texas' own Jeff Buchanan, (44-7) a Rayburn guide, came in third to lead his home state.

## Continued from page 1 Freshwater

If TPW were to pay cash for the proposed hatchery and repairs as intended, the agency and anglers would save anywhere from \$3 million to about \$9 million, compared with the cost of issuing bonds to pay for improvements. This difference involves the estimated interest payments that would be paid out over the life of the loan, based on 4 percent interest rate.

The exact amount would depend on which type of bond legislators decide to issue, according to Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn, who went so far as to put out a press release urging the Legislature to keep its promise to sportsmen and women.

"(Anglers) have a right to be upset that the funds they have paid to fish will not be used for their intended and promised purpose," Strayhorn wrote in an April 25 letter to Texas Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin, who requested an accounting of the proposal.

Meanwhile, the freshwater stamp revenue — \$5 million annually — would be stashed away in an account along with other siphoned dedicated funds.

The state would use this account to balance or certify its budget as a form of collateral. If the budget gets really tight, however, these monies could be spent by legislative action on projects other than their intended purposes.

The Texas Legislature ordered TPW to create a \$5 freshwater stamp in the first place as a way to fund hatchery needs. This stamp fee would expire in 2014, the department promised. But even this date could be extended, if talk in Austin turns to action.

So nothing, it seems, is what it seems, to hear officials of bass clubs tell it.

"We feel betrayed over this," said Ed Parten, president of Texas Black Bass Unlimited and president of Sensible Management of Aquatic Resources Team.

"Bass clubs bought into the original plan, and we helped Texas Parks & Wildlife sell it. This is a slap in the face. If it passes, the

fishermen of Texas will never trust the Legislature again," Parten said.

The freshwater angling community appears to be split on whether TPW — and specifically Inland Fisheries Director Phil Durocher — should share blame and criticism for this legislative proposal.

But Durocher denounced the proposal and said he didn't see it coming.

"We made a deal, and it looks like we're not going to be doing the deal like we said we would," Durocher said. "We're concerned about the credibility we have with our constituents. We promised them \$50 million worth of improvements and now we're looking at getting only \$47 million. This was not our intention. I'm as frustrated as they are."

Sparky Anderson, government relations director for Texas Black Bass Unlimited, a group of 10,000 independent anglers and affiliated bass clubs, said legislators are considering the path of least resistance.

Anglers for some time have not enjoyed the respect afforded a unified, informed group of voters, he said. The freshwater stamp issue could go far in adjusting attitudes in Austin, he added.

"Texas anglers are frustrated at not being heard in Austin, and we plan to fix this," Anderson said. "We need to start holding Texas politicians accountable."

The Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board, a group with diverse angling interests appointed by the TPW Commission to oversee the state's management of inland fisheries and to advise the department on related issues, has sent a strong message to lawmakers, outlining their position clearly on this issue.

In a formal resolution, the advisory board wrote that it "strongly objects to proposed action of the 79th Legislature," and "strongly recommends" that the initial intent of freshwater fishing stamp revenue be honored.

*David Sikes writes about the outdoors for the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.*



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# OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT

## WILD IN THE KITCHEN

### Year 'Round Doves

These big brutes may be an exotic species, but they're a tasty one

BY RALPH WININGHAM

**T**hey might be called flying feral hogs in some circles, but the new bird species falling to the guns of Texas dove hunters are better known by their proper name, Eurasian collared-doves.

Slightly larger than white-winged doves, the Asia natives have migrated across the country since the 1970s when they were first observed in Florida.

Officials believe there are populations of the doves in every county in Texas, and since they don't fall under federal jurisdiction, Eurasians are considered as exotics in the Lone Star State. Just like feral hogs, there is no season and no limit for scattergunners who find them in abundant enough numbers to hunt.

A prominent black neckband around the back of their necks can help hunters identify the birds. Although their white tail is squared off like a white-winged dove, the center feathers are grayish in color.

The friendly folks who put on the Lonesome Dove Fest in Karnes City on the South Zone opening day each year managed to bag a few of the Eurasians for the following recipe. Because the birds are believed to have migrated to Texas from Louisiana, it is fitting that this dish features a Cajun flair.

Mourning or white-winged doves are also good for this recipe, but then again, dove season's a long way off.



#### Crazy Cajun Eurasian Doves

9-12 Eurasian dove breasts, de-boned

**Chef Ralph's Super Seasoning\***

½ cup seasoned flour

½ cup olive oil

½ cup chopped onion

½ cup chopped celery

½ cup chopped bell pepper

1 can (14.5 ounces) petite-diced tomatoes

¼ cup tomato paste

2 cups water or chicken broth

1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

3 green onions, including tops, chopped

Rinse de-boned dove breasts in cold water and pat dry with paper towels. Flatten breasts with a mallet and season with Chef Ralph's on both sides, then dredge in seasoned flour (reserve flour). Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Quickly brown floured breasts on both sides and set aside on a warm plate. Reduce heat to medium low and add remaining flour to skillet. Simmer, stirring often, for about five minutes, until roux (flour and oil mixture) is light brown. Add onion, celery and bell pepper, stir well and simmer for five minutes. Stir in tomatoes, tomato paste, water and Worcestershire sauce. Return browned breasts to skillet, making sure pieces are covered with sauce. Cover skillet and simmer about 15 minutes. Sprinkle mixture with chopped green onions just before serving over cooked white rice.

\* Chef Ralph says: As a substitute for Chef Ralph's Super Seasoning, combine 6 tablespoons salt, 2 tablespoons each of onion salt and garlic salt, and 1 tablespoon each of black pepper, white pepper and red pepper. Whirl in a blender until thoroughly mixed.

Ralph Winingham is a freelance outdoor writer and cookbook author based in San Antonio. To order his cookbook *The Campfire Chef: Old Boots and Bacon Grease or Chef Ralph's Super Seasoning, a universal flavoring for all kinds of recipes, contact him at [rwiningham@juno.com](mailto:rwiningham@juno.com).*

## MADE IN TEXAS



Jim and Harl Asaff in their warehouse. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News

### Smart Shield

Sunblock born of necessity finds niche

BY DAVID RENFROW

**W**hen Harl Asaff was diagnosed with and treated for skin cancer, she realized that she would have to take precautions against sun exposure for the rest of her life.

So Asaff and her husband, Jim, did something rather unusual: Instead of using the oily, sticky sunscreen products on the market, they developed their own, ultimately leading to the creation of SmartShield Suncare.

The Dallas couple started out by developing a checklist of qualities the perfect sunscreen should have, and then partnered with a chemist to create it.

When they achieved their goal, they were so pleased with the product they thought everyone else would love it, too. So, in 1992 they started their own company. Initially, they targeted niche markets, mainly government entities and private companies. Their products are now distributed nationwide and in Canada, Mexico and New Zealand.

"We really got started with government and industrial employers required by OSHA (Occupational Health and Safety Administration) to provide protection to their employees who work outdoors," said Tyler Thomas, director of sales and marketing. "Now we supply to the military, the Coast Guard, TPW (Texas Parks and Wildlife), even NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)."

Although the company now manufactures and distributes an entire line of sun-protection products, including some clothing items, the flagship product is still their sunscreen lotion. The lotion is aloe vera-based and completely oil-free.

The oil-free formulation turned out to be a hit particularly with one group of outdoors enthusiasts — anglers. The non-oily lotion allowed them to keep a better grip on their equipment after sunscreen application than with the oilier competitors.

"Boat captains were telling us that after lathering up with sunscreen, their customers were casting and the rods were slipping out of their hands," said Thomas. "They were losing money."

Another claim to fame for the product is that it doesn't harm bait in the live well, thanks to the non-oily content.

The company also offers a combination sunscreen and insect repellent that an independent laboratory compared with products containing the chemical insect repellent DEET. The testing laboratory said that the SmartShield product was "statistically equal in preventing mosquitoes from probing."

Thomas declined to give exact annual sales numbers for the company, but he said business is good and getting better.

"We are a young company, continuing to grow," Thomas said. "We're a Texas company, and we're proud of that."

## TEXAS WORD TREASURES

For crossword puzzle solution, see page 18

Texas  
Word  
Treasures

#### Across

- Aberdeen hooks are this color
- End of the day
- Mineral used in muskets
- Devices that make fishing reels and trailer wheels spin more easily
- Machine that creates electricity
- A round entrapping device thrown to catch baitfish
- Axis deer and Corsican rams are examples of this type of game
- A two-part chemical glue
- Seawater with excessive salt content
- Scientific name for a blue crab's shell

#### Down

- Hooks and stingray's tails have these
- Provides light and warmth at night while camping
- A type of storm; common in West Texas
- McMurtry wrote about this lonesome bird
- Wild flower, also known as Indian Blanket
- Remnants of a past geologic age; often found near Hill Country streams
- Insect with large hind legs for leaping
- Sound that a male speckled trout makes when spawning females are near
- Hexagonal wax structure built by bees
- Tree that hosts the larval stage (caterpillar) of the sphinx moth
- Opposite of shallow

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# THIS WEEK'S WEATHER

## AccuWeather.com

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### TEMPERATURE



### PRECIPITATION



For the week of May 13 through May 19, 2005

### TEXAS CITIES

City	Fri.		Sat.		Sun.		Mon.		Tue.		Wed.		Thu.	
	H/L	W	H/L	W	H/L	W	H/L	W	H/L	W	H/L	W	H/L	W
Arlene	80/54	77/56	80/29	83/61	86/51	90/66	91/80							
Alice	88/64	90/64	87/67	89/67	88/70	89/70	89/65							
Amarillo	66/88	74/58	74/51	77/56	83/58	86/58	87/58							
Austin	87/64	86/51	84/64	87/63	85/64	86/51	87/65							
Beaumont	85/61	83/61	83/64	85/63	86/52	85/52	84/51							
Brownsville	87/72	86/70	89/71	89/69	86/66	85/65	86/65							
Corpus Christi	85/69	86/69	86/69	87/67	85/68	85/68	85/68							
Dallas	82/63	80/62	78/62	81/61	82/64	83/65	83/66							
El Paso	89/58	90/60	88/62	90/63	91/63	91/63	91/62							
Fort Worth	84/62	78/62	80/62	82/60	84/62	85/63	87/65							
Galveston	81/72	81/70	80/71	83/68	79/68	79/67	79/67							
Houston	86/64	88/64	86/70	84/69	84/62	83/61	84/61							
Kingville	87/69	90/68	88/67	89/69	87/66	87/65	88/66							
Laredo	81/65	92/69	91/69	91/66	92/68	93/68	94/69							
Lubbock	85/62	81/61	80/60	82/59	83/60	83/60	80/51							
Lubbock	78/56	78/54	80/55	84/59	88/53	91/53	92/54							
McAllen	90/72	92/72	92/71	91/69	89/68	89/68	89/68							
Odessa	87/62	82/60	83/61	84/63	84/63	84/63	84/63							
San Angelo	86/61	85/62	83/61	87/62	89/63	91/66	93/68							
San Antonio	84/57	86/57	85/64	86/54	85/53	86/53	86/56							
Texarkana	82/64	82/63	78/61	80/59	79/61	82/61	83/63							
Victoria	86/64	87/63	86/54	87/65	84/63	84/64	85/66							
Waco	85/64	83/61	82/61	83/61	83/63	86/64	88/66							
Wichita Falls	77/54	73/56	78/56	80/56	83/56	87/56	90/57							

Weather (W) = sunny, pe partly cloudy, c cloudy, dk showers, f thunderstorms, r rain, of snow flurries, so snow, fdr.

### SOLAR TABLE

Major/Minor periods	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
Fr.	2:21a/8:34a	2:21a/8:46a	2:21a/8:44a
Sa.	3:16a/9:32a	3:25a/9:36a	3:25a/9:42a
Su.	4:16a/10:29a	4:25a/10:34a	4:25a/10:34a
Mo.	5:09a/11:21a	5:15a/11:27a	5:15a/11:31a
Tu.	5:59a/12:07a	6:05a/12:07a	6:25a/12:11a
We.	6:44a/12:13a	6:54a/12:16a	7:16a/12:19a
Th.	7:26a/12:15a	7:32a/12:11a	7:52a/12:11a

### SUN AND MOON


Sunrise/set for				Moonrise/set for			
Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
Fr.	6:29a/8:09p	6:30a/8:09p	6:43a/8:09p	6:44a/8:42p			
Sa.	6:29a/8:07p	6:30a/8:09p	6:42a/8:09p	6:42a/8:43p			
Su.	6:29a/8:09p	6:29a/8:09p	6:41a/8:09p	6:42a/8:44p			
Mo.	6:27a/8:09p	6:27a/8:09p	6:41a/8:09p	6:42a/8:45p			
Tu.	6:27a/8:09p	6:28a/8:09p	6:40a/8:09p	6:41a/8:45p			
We.	6:26a/8:09p	6:27a/8:09p	6:40a/8:09p	6:41a/8:46p			
Th.	6:26a/8:09p	6:26a/8:09p	6:39a/8:09p	6:40a/8:47p			

### TIDES

	High	Low	High	Low
Galveston				
Friday	10:32 a.m.	1:16 a.m.	---	---
Saturday	11:17 a.m.	2:09 a.m.	---	---
Sunday	11:39 a.m.	3:05 a.m.	---	---
Monday	11:52 a.m.	4:02 a.m.	---	---
Tuesday	12:00 p.m.	4:59 a.m.	11:20 p.m.	7:23 p.m.
Wednesday	12:09 p.m.	5:54 a.m.	---	7:15 p.m.
Thursday	12:46 a.m.	6:51 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	7:29 p.m.
Port Bolivar				
Friday	12:47 p.m.	2:03 a.m.	---	---
Saturday	1:32 p.m.	2:56 a.m.	---	---
Sunday	1:54 p.m.	3:52 a.m.	---	---
Monday	2:07 p.m.	4:49 a.m.	---	---
Tuesday	2:16 p.m.	5:46 a.m.	---	8:10 p.m.
Wednesday	1:35 a.m.	6:41 a.m.	2:24 p.m.	8:02 p.m.
Thursday	3:01 a.m.	7:38 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	8:16 p.m.
San Luis Pass				
Friday	11:41 a.m.	1:45 a.m.	---	---
Saturday	12:28 p.m.	2:38 a.m.	---	---
Sunday	12:48 p.m.	3:34 a.m.	---	---
Monday	1:01 p.m.	4:31 a.m.	---	---
Tuesday	1:10 p.m.	5:28 a.m.	---	7:52 p.m.
Wednesday	12:29 a.m.	6:23 a.m.	1:18 p.m.	7:44 p.m.
Thursday	1:55 a.m.	7:20 a.m.	1:24 p.m.	7:58 p.m.
Freeport				
Friday	10:33 a.m.	12:46 a.m.	---	---
Saturday	11:18 a.m.	1:39 a.m.	---	---
Sunday	11:40 a.m.	2:35 a.m.	---	---
Monday	11:51 a.m.	3:32 a.m.	---	---
Tuesday	12:02 p.m.	4:29 a.m.	11:21 p.m.	6:53 p.m.
Wednesday	12:10 p.m.	5:24 a.m.	---	6:45 p.m.
Thursday	12:47 a.m.	6:21 a.m.	12:16 p.m.	6:59 p.m.
Port O'Connor				
Friday	4:24 p.m.	3:47 a.m.	---	---
Saturday	5:12 p.m.	4:42 a.m.	---	---
Sunday	5:50 p.m.	5:40 a.m.	---	---
Monday	6:13 p.m.	6:41 a.m.	---	---
Tuesday	6:07 p.m.	7:43 a.m.	---	---
Wednesday	5:05 p.m.	9:00 a.m.	---	11:14 p.m.
Thursday	5:13 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	2:52 p.m.	10:23 p.m.
Corpus Christi				
Friday	10:41 a.m.	12:24 a.m.	---	---
Saturday	11:26 a.m.	1:17 a.m.	---	---
Sunday	11:48 a.m.	2:13 a.m.	---	---
Monday	12:01 p.m.	3:10 a.m.	---	---
Tuesday	12:10 p.m.	4:07 a.m.	11:29 p.m.	6:31 p.m.
Wednesday	12:18 p.m.	5:02 a.m.	---	6:23 p.m.
Thursday	12:55 a.m.	5:59 a.m.	12:24 p.m.	6:37 p.m.
South Padre Island				
Friday	11:28 a.m.	12:24 a.m.	---	---
Saturday	12:07 p.m.	1:13 a.m.	---	---
Sunday	12:26 p.m.	2:03 a.m.	---	---
Monday	12:29 p.m.	2:55 a.m.	---	---
Tuesday	12:22 p.m.	3:52 a.m.	10:24 p.m.	7:45 p.m.
Wednesday	12:09 p.m.	4:57 a.m.	---	7:01 p.m.
Thursday	1:02 a.m.	6:18 a.m.	11:52 a.m.	7:04 p.m.

### MOON PHASES

# BORDERING TEXAS



**ARKANSAS**  
**Largemouth Bass Favored**

The Arkansas warm-water hatchery system - the largest run by any state - will drop 1.3 million black bass fingerlings into lakes and rivers this year. Don't be alarmed: Black bass are doing fine on their own, but sometimes they need a little help.

About a third of Arkansas anglers and almost 50 percent of anglers from other states who fish in Arkansas pick largemouth bass as their favorite game fish. And Arkansas has plenty to go around.

Sometimes - because of fluctuating water levels or temperatures, or lack of habitat and cover - the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission uses stocked fish to maintain a population of largemouth or smallmouth bass. The fingerlings for stocking are raised in four warm-water hatcheries: William H. Donham Hatchery at Corning, Joe Hogan Hatchery at Lonoke, Andrew H. Hulsey Hatchery at Hot Springs and C.B. "Charlie" Craig Hatchery at Centerton.

The Hulsey Hatchery produces Florida strain largemouth bass (*Micropterus floridanus*). The other three hatcheries produce the Northern strain largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*).

The trick to this process is figuring out where these fish need to go. District fisheries biologists keep up with bass populations by using "shoreline seining" to determine which lakes need to be stocked.

In April, the hatchery system stocked 1,130 adult Northern largemouth bass into 36.5 acres of hatchery ponds to spawn. The ponds were fertilized with organic and inorganic compounds to promote zooplankton blooms, which feed the young bass. Spawning usually occurs about May 1. The hatchery system has a production goal of 700,000 Northern largemouth bass fingerlings. When they're harvested in the middle of June, the fingerlings will be about 2 inches long.

After the harvest, adult bass are kept in several small ponds at the hatcheries and fed forage, a combination of minnows, sunfish, goldfish, tilapia, shad and crayfish. Between 25,000 and 30,000 pounds of forage is fed to largemouth bass brood stock each year.

The Hulsey Hatchery will stock 550 adult Florida largemouth bass into 30 acres of ponds to spawn, with a production goal of 550,000

fingerlings.

Those fingerlings may be stocked in Inter White Oak, Millwood Lake, Lake Columbia, Lake Monticello, Marion McCollum Greenlee Lake, Bois d'Arc Lake, Lake Atkins, Lake Conway, SWECO Lake and Lake Chicot.




**LOUISIANA**  
**Spring Shrimp Season**

The opening dates of the 2005 Louisiana spring shrimp season were announced at the May 5 meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

The declaration of emergency, which established the season's opening date, followed a presentation of the latest biological and hydrological data compiled by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Marine Fisheries Division and public comment from shrimpers and other concerned citizens.

Louisiana inshore shrimp seasons will open at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, May 23, in Zone one. Zone two will open at 6:00 a.m. on

Monday, May 16 and Zone three on Thursday, June 2 at 6:00 a.m.



**NEW MEXICO**  
**Free Outdoor Expo**

People of all ages are invited to the Albuquerque Shooting Range Park May 14-15 for the fourth annual New Mexico Outdoor Expo, where participants can learn new outdoor skills and polish old ones - all for free in a safe environment with experts as guides.

Sponsored by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the City of Albuquerque, the Expo will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities will include .22 rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun shooting and instruction, casting, a rock-climbing wall and archery. A 4,000-gallon aquarium will be back this year, stocked with a variety of large game fish. These fish will become star attractions several times a day when anglers will tempt them with all kinds of lures and presentations.

This year's newest attraction, a catfish pond, will give children a chance to catch-and-release a lunker or two while they're learning the

basics of fishing.

The park is about 12 miles west of the Interstate 40, Interstate 25 interchange in Albuquerque. Take I-40 west and exit at Paseo del Vulcan (Exit 149), turn right at the stop sign, go four miles and turn left on Shooting Range Road, then travel three miles to the park.

For more information about New Mexico Outdoor Expo, call (505) 841-8881.



**OKLAHOMA**  
**Free Fishing Days**

The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission approved a resolution to designate June 4-5 as Free Fishing Days in Oklahoma and recognizes June 4-12 as National Fishing and Boating Week. Oklahoma was the first state in the nation to offer free fishing days 23 years ago and has since been followed by dozens of other states that have established similar free fishing days.

"Free fishing days are a great opportunity to introduce family and friends to fishing," said David Warren, information and education chief for the Wildlife Department.

# THIS WEEK'S FISHING REPORT

## CENTRAL

**BASTROP:** Water stained. Black bass are fair on chartreuse/green spinnerbaits and shallow diving crankbaits in 5 - 10 feet. Crappie are fair on minnows and red tube jigs. Channel and blue catfish are fair on stinkbait and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish are slow.

**BROWNWOOD:** Water stained; 69 degrees; 0.51' low. Black bass are excellent on spinnerbaits. June bug and dark soft-plastic worms, and brush hogs. Hybrid striped are fair under lights. White bass are good on small tubes and minnows in the rivers and near the 279 Bridge. Channel catfish are fair on live bait. Yellow catfish are fair on dropinlets and trotlines baited with live bait.

**BUCHANAN:** Water clear; 68 degrees; 2.45' low. Black bass are very good on weightless pumpkin/chartreuse Whacky Sticks, white Terminator spinnerbaits, and chartreuse/blue back crankbaits on flats and points in 4 - 8 feet early. Striped bass are fair to good night fishing live bait and vertically jigging 1/2oz. Perch Minnows and pearl Curb's crappie jigs from Flat Island to Shaw Island in 28 feet. White bass are fair on Spoiler Shads, Blade Runners, and live minnows in 15 - 25 feet. Crappie are good on white 1 1/2oz. Curb's crappie jigs and minnows. Channel catfish are good on trotlines. Yellow and blue catfish in 16 pounds are good on juglines and trotlines baited with live cut perch and carp.

**CANYON LAKE:** Water gin clear; 68 degrees; 1.02' high. Black bass are good on rox, white Terminator spinnerbaits, rox. Bleeding Shiner Rat-L-Traps, and pumpkin/chartreuse Whacky Sticks along break lines of flats in 6 - 12 feet. Striped bass are fair on live bait at night under lights. White bass are fair to good on Spoiler Shads and pearl Blade Runners early, and on live minnows at night under lights. Smallmouth bass are fair to good on drop shot pumpkin Devils Tail, smoked Snag, and Back tubes, and root beer 3/16 grub on ledges and over rock piles in 12 - 25 feet. Crappie are good on minnows, 1/16oz. tube jigs, and Curb's crappie jigs in 8 - 10 feet. Channel catfish are fair to good on trotlines baited with live bait. Blue catfish are good on night-crawlers, minnows, and perch in 18 feet.

**COLORADO RIVER:** (At Colorado Bend State Park) Water clear. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on trotlines baited with shrimp, nightcrawlers, chicken, and cut shad. Yellow catfish are excellent on trotlines baited with live bait.

**GRANBURY:** Water stained; 0.46' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon/red and white soft plastic worms with whitened flake tails. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on minnows and silver crippled herring spoons. Crappie are good on minnow/chartreuse tube jigs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and stinkbait.

**GRANGER:** Water murky; 68 degrees; 0.39' high. Black bass are fair on buzzbaits and spinnerbaits upriver. White bass are fair on snail spoons along main lake roadbeds. Crappie are good on 1/32oz. marabou jigs in 3 - 15 feet. Blue catfish are good on cutbait and shad. Yellow catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch in the Willow Creek Park area.

**LEA:** Water stained; 68 degrees; 0.10' low. Black bass to 5 pounds are good on blue/chartreuse/white rox. Terminator spinnerbaits, weightless watermelon/red Whacky Sticks, and shallow running perch crankbaits tight to stumps and laydowns in 4 - 6 feet. Striped bass are fair on Spoiler Shads and rox, white bucktails at night. White bass are fair early and good at night on 1/16 L'il Fishies and Blade Runners. Crappie are good on white and chartreuse 1/32oz. Curb's crappie jigs and minnows over brush in 2 - 6 feet. Channel catfish are very good on live bait. Yellow and blue catfish are good on trotlines.

**NAVARRO MILLS:** Water murky, 0.16' low. Black bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are fair on doughbait. Yellow catfish are slow.

**PROCTOR:** Water murky, 0.04' high. Black bass are slow. Striped bass are good on shad. White bass are good on shad. Crappie are fair on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are slow. Yellow catfish are slow.

**STILLHOUSE:** Water clear; 67 degrees; 0.21' high. Black bass are good on Carolina rigged soft plastic worms and lizards. White bass are good on minnows and silver spoons. Smallmouth bass are slow. Crappie are good on medium minnows. Channel and blue catfish are fair on stinkbait, shrimp, and hot dogs. Yellow catfish are slow.

**TRAVIS:** Water clear; 70 degrees; 0.50' low. Black bass to 4 pounds are good on red shad worms, Yum Dinger stickbaits, and smoke grubs in 5 - 22 feet. Striped bass are slow. White bass to 1 pound are fair on crippled herring spoons and smoke grubs in 20 - 30 feet. Crappie to 1 pound are fair on minnows and pink tube jigs in 12 - 25 feet. Channel and blue catfish to 10 pounds are good on fresh cutbait and shrimp in 25 - 45 feet. Yellow catfish are slow.

**WHITNEY:** Water stained; 1.55' low. Black bass are fair on watermelon/red and chartreuse spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and soft plastics. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on minnows and stripper jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are good on stinkbait, liver, and nightcrawlers.

## NORTHEAST

**ATHENS:** Water stained; 67-72 degrees; normal pool. Black bass are fair on topwaters and buzzbaits early and late. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows around brush and reeds in shallow water. Catfish are good on punch bait and worms around baited holes.

**BOB SANDLIN:** Water clear; 65-70 degrees; 0.11' low. Black bass are good on Texas rigged pumpkin worms and topwaters.

Crappie are good on jigs and minnows in 3-6 feet around heavy brush. White bass are good on slabs, spoons and Rat-L-Traps around mid lake humps. Catfish are good on punch bait in 10-20 feet around channel ledges.

**BIDDESPORT:** Water clear; 66-71 degrees. Black bass good on Texas rigged worms and Rat-L-Traps in 6-10 feet around main lake points and rock rip rap. Crappie good on minnows and jigs around reed beds and stick-ups. White bass are excellent on slabs and live shad in 12-15 feet around sandy points close to deep water. Hybrid striped are excellent on live shad in 10-16 feet. Channel catfish are excellent in 10-15 feet on fresh shad and punch bait.

**CADDO:** Water clear; 67-71 degrees; 0.38' high. Black bass are good on Texas rigged worms and topwaters in 2-5 feet around bream beds. Crappie are excellent on live minnows in 3-6 feet along the river ledge close to Johnson's Ranch Marina-larger crappie coming from the Louisiana side of the lake. White shad in the main channels are on inline spinners and trolling with shad imitation crankbaits. Channel catfish are good on small live bream. Bream are excellent on crickets, worms and small crawfish in shallow water.

**CDAR CREEK:** Water stained; 67-71 degrees; 0.11' low. Black bass are good on Texas rigged worms around concrete structures. White bass are excellent on TNT Lures in 22-25 feet on main lake humps. Hybrid striped are good on Sassy Shad under the birds during late afternoon out from Key Ranch Estates. Crappie are good on tube jigs and small minnows in 4-6 feet around brush. Catfish are excellent in 4-15 feet on fresh shad and prepared baits from windblown banks and drift fishing in 18-24 feet.

**COOPER:** Water stained; 66-70 degrees. Black bass are good on Top Dog black/blue lizards and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on minnows and pearl Betts Krinkle jigs with a slip cork in 3-6 feet. Catfish are excellent on trotlines baited with live bait and in baited holes on punch bait in 8-16 feet around creek channels. White bass are good on white bucktail jigs and chrome Rat-L-Traps.

**FAIRFIELD:** Water clear; 68-77 degrees; normal pool. Black bass are fair on worms and Rat-L-Traps lake in shallow water close to creek channels. Crappie are slow. Catfish are excellent on small pieces of cut bait and punch bait around sandy points in 6-10 feet. Redfish are fair on large Rat-L-Traps and shad imitation soft plastics. Bream are excellent on worms in 2-4 feet.

**FORK:** Water clear 67-71 degrees; 0.20' low. Black bass are good on watermelon seed Flukes rigged with a split shad or Carolina crappie on minnow lizards fishing in spawning flats. Most bass have spawned but some are still on nests. Crappie are excellent on minnows in 4-5 feet around heavy shoreline reeds and brush. Catfish are excellent on minnows and Danny King's Punch Bait in 4-8 feet.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water stained; 66-70 degrees; normal pool. Black bass are good on plastic worms, Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits around riprap and pockets off the main lake. Crappie are good on minnows around docks with brush and around standing timber on the north end of the lake. White bass are good on TallHumms and TNT Lures around humps and points in 15-25 feet. Catfish are good on prepared baits and fresh shad in 15-20 feet in baited holes.

**JOE POOL:** Water stained; 67-71 degrees; 0.13' low. Black bass are good around points near the mouth of coves on Carolina rigged soft plastic worms and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are good on live minnows and jigs around shoreline reed beds. White bass are good on TNT lures and TallHumms in 12-15 feet around main lake points. Channel catfish are good drift fishing fresh shad and punch bait on trotlines and humps in 10-20 feet.

**LAKE O' THE PINES:** Water stained; 68-71 degrees; 0.07' low. Black bass are good on plastic worms rigged Texas style and topwaters early and late. Crappie are good on minnows in 3-8 feet around brush and submerged brush piles. White bass are fair on jigging spoons and live minnows. Catfish are good in 15-20 feet around punch bait and worms in holes baited with sourd grain.

**LAVON:** Water stained; 67-71 degrees; 0.06' low. Black bass are good on Texas rigged lizards and worms around riprap and lay down logs and brush in 3-8 feet. Crappie are good on minnows in 3-6 feet around standing timber and brush. White bass are fair on slabs and lead tail spinners, beginning to chase shad along the banks during early morning. Catfish are good on punch bait and fresh shad in 4-8 feet around mid-lake points.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water stained; 67-71 degrees; 0.32' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and plastic worms around tree break waters and rock riprap. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs in 3-6 feet around reeds and shallow brush. White bass are good on slabs in 16-24 feet around main lake points and humps and under the birds. Catfish are good on Danny King's Punch Bait and fresh shad in 4-10 feet.

**MARTIN CREEK:** Water clear; 68 degrees mid-lake, 78 at hot water discharge; normal pool. Black bass are good in 3-8 feet on Wawe Worms fished weightless. Crappie are good on minnows in 4-8 feet over submerged brush and timber. Catfish are excellent on trotlines and jug lines in 10 feet baited with cut bait and punch bait.

**MONTICELLO:** Water clear; 68 degrees upper end, 77 degrees at hot water discharge; normal pool. Black bass are fair on topwaters early and late and plastic worms during mid-day. Crappie are slow. Channel catfish are good on punch bait in 10-20 feet.

**PALESTINE:** Water clear; 67-71 degrees; 0.19 low. Black bass are good on topwaters and Rat-L-Traps in 4-10 feet around points close to deep water. Crappie are good on min-

nnows and jigs in 2-6 feet around brush and stickups. Catfish are excellent on punch bait in 4-8 feet around brush and stickups. Yellow catfish are slow. Mexican fishing licenses and boat permits are required to fish in Mexican waters. Everyone in the boat must have a Mexico Fishing License whether fishing or not.

**PAT MAYSE:** Water clear; 67-71 degrees; normal pool. Black bass are good on topwaters and soft plastic shad imitations. Crappie are good on black/chartreuse Betts Crinkle jigs and small live minnows in 2-4 feet. Catfish are excellent on punch bait around submerged creek ledges in 4-20 feet. White bass are good on slabs in 12-20 feet around humps. Hybrid striped are excellent on large Rat-L-Traps and topwaters around main lake humps and points in the Sanders Cove area.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water stained; 68-71 degrees; 0.14' low. Black bass are good on lizards, worms rigged with light weights and Rat-L-Traps around rip rap. Crappie are good on jigs around cattails in 2-6 feet. White bass are good on slabs and jigging spoons in 15-24 feet around Robertson Park and the Heath Boat Ramp. Hybrid striped are fair in 20 feet on live shad and perch. Catfish are good on slabs and punch bait in 15-20 feet on holes baited with sourd grain.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water clear; 68-70 degrees; 0.05' high. Black bass are good on Carolina rigged centepedes in 8-15 feet around main lake points with vegetation. Crappie are excellent on minnows and black/chartreuse jigs in shallow water back in creeks and along shoreline brush and reeds. White bass are excellent on spoons and slabs in 22-28 feet. Catfish are good on punch baits and fresh shad in 12-20 feet.

**RICHLAND CHAMBERS:** Water stained; 68-72 degrees; 0.16' low. Black bass are fair on Carolina rigs and Rat-L-Traps around main lake and secondary points. White bass are good on chartreuse slabs and blue chartreuse jigs to the bottom in 20-24 feet around submerged oil well pads and points - follow the birds to the widespread schooling action. Hybrid striped are fair in the lower lake on Sassy Shad and slabs. Crappie are fair on minnows in 6-8 feet around heavy brush and timber in feeder creeks around Oak Cove Marina. Catfish are excellent on Danny King's Punch Bait and slabs in 5-20 feet at the base of the 309 Flats and the Rail Road Truss.

**TAWAKONI:** Water stained; 67-70 degrees; 0.68' low. Black bass are fair on plastic worms and spinnerbaits around shoreline cut in 4-8 feet. Crappie are good on live minnows in 6-12 feet at the base of the Fishing Barge and around man made brush piles. White bass are excellent on 1oz. white or chartreuse Holiday Slabs on humps out from the mouth of the Cove. Striped bass and hybrid striped are good under the birds on 4' Sassy Shad. Catfish are good on fresh shad and punch bait in 15-20 feet around points close to the mouth of creeks.

**TEKOMA:** Water clear; 67-70 degrees; 4.40' low. Largemouth bass are good on spinnerbaits and soft plastics rigged Carolina style. Smallmouth bass are good on crawfish imitation crankbaits out from rocky points. Crappie are good on minnows around docks with brush. Striped bass are good on minnows and live bait. Look for stripers staging on humps adjacent river and creek channels. Blue catfish are excellent on Danny King's Punch Bait and cut shad in the back of coves in 4-8 feet.

## SOUTH

**AMISTAD:** Water clear; 67 degrees. Black bass to 5 pounds are very good on watermelon seed and watermelon seed red soft plastics and spinnerbaits, and on topwaters early. Striped bass are good on red Fin Topwaters and jigs. White bass near the dam and under birds. White bass are fair on slabs. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on cheesebait and prepared baits. Yellow catfish are fair on live bait.

**BRAUNIG:** Water stained; 85 degrees. Black bass to 6 pounds are good on soft plastics along shorelines and structure. Striped bass to 4 pounds are good on chicken livers and Tony Accetta spoon. Redfish to 15 pounds are good on live perch and tilapia, and fair down rigging Tony Accetta Spoon. Channel catfish to 3 pounds are excellent on shrimp, liver, and stinkbait. Blue catfish are fair on chicken livers, shrimp, stinkbait, and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish are slow.

**CALAVARAS:** Water stained; 84 degrees. Black bass to 5.5 pounds are good on soft plastic worms and grubs around reed beds along the shorelines. Striped bass to 5 pounds are good on chicken livers, shad, and spoons. Redfish to 18 pounds are excellent on perch and shrimp on the bottom. Catfish are excellent on nightcrawlers, shad, and liver in 10 - 20 feet.

**CHICK CANYON:** Water stained; 75 - 80 degrees; 0.04' low. Black bass to 5 pounds are good on cotton candy YUM Wooly Wag Craws, chartreuse/white Norman Fat Boys, and rainbow trout Bomber Long "A's" on main lake points in 5 - 10 feet. White bass are fair on live minnows, chrome/black Norman Tiny Tickers, and trolling white Bomber "A's" on main lake points in 8 - 12 feet. Crappie are good on white Curb's crappie jigs, chartreuse Berkley Blade Runners, and live minnows over brushpiles and pilings in 2 - 6 feet. Channel and blue catfish are very good on Lewis King punchbait, shrimp, and Redneck soap bait. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines and juglines baited with hybrid bluegills, comets, and large minnows.

**COLETO CREEK:** Water stained; 84 degrees (77 degrees at hot water discharge); 0.05' low. Black bass are fair on soft plastic worms in 8 feet. Striped bass are fair on minnows in 5-10 pounds. Crappie to 1 pound are fair on minnows in 8 - 10 feet. Channel and blue catfish are fair on trotlines baited with perch and liver. Yellow catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live perch.

**FALCON:** Water clear; 73 degrees. Black bass are good on 6" pumpkinseed worms in Willow

trees and Rapala divers on drop-offs. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Catfish are good on shrimp, stinkbait and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish are slow. Mexican fishing licenses and boat permits are required to fish in Mexican waters. Everyone in the boat must have a Mexico Fishing License whether fishing or not.

## SOUTHEAST

**CONROE:** Water stained. Black bass are fair on chartreuse/blue spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and soft plastic worms and lizards in 8 - 15 feet. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and blue and red Curb's crappie jigs. Catfish are fair on stinkbait, liver, and night-crawlers.

**GIBBONS CREEK:** Water stained. Black bass are good on watermelon/red spinnerbaits and shad diving crankbaits. Crappie to 1 pound are good on minnows and green tube jigs. Catfish are good on stinkbait, minnows, and frozen shrimp.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water stained with clear shad; 71 degrees; 0.57' high. Black bass are very good on June bug worms with dark blue flakes near the marina in 4 feet. Crappie are fair on live minnows around pier late. Red ear bream are excellent on live worms around pier. Catfish are slow.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water fairly clear; 71 degrees; 0.01' low. Black bass are good on soft plastics. Striped bass are slow. White bass are good on Charlie slabs, pet spoons, and hell-benders. Crappie are very good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on shad. Yellow catfish are slow.

**SAM RAYBURN:** Water lightly stained; 68 degrees; 0.43' high. Black bass are fair on firetiger/white spinnerbaits and crankbaits along shorelines in 1 - 5 feet, and on Carolina rigged soft plastics in hydrilla on main lake flats. Crappie are fair on live minnows and purple jigs around willows and in hydrilla. Catfish are good on trotlines and juglines baited with live bait.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water stained north, clear south; 70 degrees; 1.40' low. Black bass are good on white/green spinnerbaits and crankbaits in hydrilla in 8 - 15 feet, and on watermelon/red Wacky worms and Texas rigged soft plastics around docks and shallow cover near secondary points. Crappie are good on chartreuse/green tube jigs in hydrilla.

## PANHANDLE

**BAVLOR:** Water lightly stained; 61 degrees. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow on minnows. Catfish are slow.

**GREENBELT:** Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 2.3' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits and green soft plastics or jigs along tree lines and red crawfish crankbaits along main lake points. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait and Rat-L-Traps along the dam. Smallmouth bass are good on crankbaits and jerkbaits. Walleye are good on live bait. Catfish are good on minnows and worms.

**MACKENZIE:** Water lightly stained; 55 degrees; 64.25' low. Black bass are fair on white/chartreuse spinnerbaits and live bait. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass and striped bass are good on live bait and shrimp. Smallmouth bass are fair on live bait. Walleye are fair on live bait and chrome with black back jerkbaits. Catfish are fair on minnows and chicken liver.

**MEREDITH:** Water lightly stained; 54 degrees; 21.2' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored spinnerbaits and dark jigs near main lake points, rocks and brush. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait. Smallmouth bass are good on minnows and worms. Catfish are good on minnows and worms.

## WEST

**ALAN HENRY:** Water lightly stained; 58 degrees. Black bass to 8-9 pounds are good on shad-colored spinnerbaits, white tubes or jigs around the brush. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs in the brush.

**ARROWHEAD:** Water muddy in upper end; 63 degrees; 4.5' low. Black bass are fair around rocky areas and flooded shrub on slow-roll spinnerbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs - spawn beginning. White bass are fair on shad-imitation baits. Blue catfish are good on cut shad and prepared baits. All boat ramps are open.

**COLORADO CITY:** Water clear; 60 degrees; .35' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. FH, PHANTOM HILL. Water clear; 61 degrees; 2.5' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on live bait. White bass are fair. Catfish are fair.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 11.5' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored spinnerbaits and red crawfish or chartreuse/black back crankbaits along main lake points and humps. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass and hybrid striped are good on minnows. Catfish are good on minnow/cut baits.

**NASWORTHY:** Water lightly stained; 62 degrees. Black bass are fair. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Redfish are fair. White bass and striped bass are good on minnows. Yellow drum are good on live bait on minnows.

**O.A. IVE:** Water lightly stained; 63 degrees; 21.25' low. Black bass are fair on Carolina-rigged chartreuse tipped soft plastics and live baits along main lake points and shad-colored spinnerbaits and chrome/blue back jerk baits in 8 feet. Striped bass are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait and small crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are fair on live bait. Channel catfish are good on goldfish and cutbaits.

**POSSUM KINGDOM:** Water clear; 66 degrees; 3.6' low. Black bass are fair in Rock Creek and Caddo areas. Crappie are slow on live

bait. White bass are good near Carter Bend and Island. Striped bass are slow on live bait. Blue catfish are fair on upper part of reservoir. SPENCE: Water lightly stained; 62 degrees; 48' low. Black bass are fair on green pumpkin soft plastics and shad-colored spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair. Striped bass and hybrid striped are fair. Catfish are fair on live bait.

**STAMFORD:** Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 4' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. White and striped bass are fair on slabs tipped with minnows. Catfish are fair on minnows.

**WHITE RIVER:** Water lightly stained; 61 degrees; 17.75' low. Black bass to 7 pounds are fair on white big tubes, shad-colored crankbaits and junebug soft plastics around the brush. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. Walleye are fair on minnows. Channel catfish are good on live bait and cut baits.

**WICHITA:** Water clearing; 65 degrees. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair in old yacht club, American Legion and Lakeside City areas. White bass and hybrid striped bass are good on large minnows, white twister-tails and girth minnows along dam and tight-lined near the spillway. Channel catfish are good on shrimp, punchbait and boat. Boat ramps are open.

## COASTAL

**NORTH SABINE:** Trout are fair to good on the north spoil bank shorelines on black Top Dogs and Super Spooks. Flounder are good on the Louisiana shoreline on mud minnows and red shad plastics. Redfish are good on live shad in the marsh.

**SOUTH SABINE:** Trout are fair to good on the reef on red shad and black Bass Assassins, Trout Killers, Sand Eels and Starling Wedgetails. Trout, sand trout, redfish and sheepshead are good at night from the Causeway pier on live shrimp and tanned-ridged Little Fishies.

**SOLIVAR:** Trout are fair to good in protected areas on topwaters and Corkies. Redfish and black drum are good on cut-bait on the beachfront and at Rollover Pass.

**TRINITY BAY:** Trout are fair to good at Spoonbait Reef on red shad and glow/chartreuse plastics. Flounder are good on red shad plastics tipped with shrimp in the bayous. Redfish, sand trout and black drum are fair on live bait at the Spillway.

**EAST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout and redfish are good on red shad and glow/chartreuse Bass Assassins, Trout Killers, Sand Eels and Hogies. Trout and redfish are fair to good on the south shoreline on plastics and live shrimp.

**WEST GALVESTON BAY:** Trout are fair to good while drifting deeper shell reefs on red shad Bass Assassins, Sand Eels, Trout Killers and Stanley Wedgetails. Trout are fair in the Ship Channel on live shrimp and croakers.

**TEXAS CITY:** Trout and redfish are fair to good on live bait. Catfish are good on minnows and worms.

**MACKENZIE:** Water lightly stained; 55 degrees; 64.25' low. Black bass are fair on white/chartreuse spinnerbaits and live bait. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass and striped bass are good on live bait and shrimp. Smallmouth bass are fair on live bait. Walleye are fair on live bait and chrome with black back jerkbaits. Catfish are fair on minnows and chicken liver.

**MEREDITH:** Water lightly stained; 54 degrees; 21.2' low. Black bass are fair on shad-colored spinnerbaits and dark jigs near main lake points, rocks and brush. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass are good on live bait. Smallmouth bass are good on minnows and worms. Catfish are good on minnows and worms.

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# HEROES' CORNER

Want to share your great hunting or fishing adventure with the *Lone Star Outdoor News* family? E-mail your photo, phone and caption information to [editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com](mailto:editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com), or mail to: Heroes' Corner, *Lone Star Outdoor News*, 9304 Forest Lane, Suite 114 South, Dallas, TX, 75243.

## FEATURED HERO

Lake Fork fishing guide, **BRIAN DUPLCHAIN**, posed with a 10.4-pound largemouth bass he caught recently on a Wave Worm, Tiki-Moko, Watermelon Red. The fish was caught in six feet of water and then released. Duplechain reports that many fish have finished the spawn and are moving into deeper water for post spawn action. The males are still shallow protecting the young fry but there has been some good top water action out deeper.



**MATT MCCULLOUGH** and son **ROBERT** (age 6) with a big hybrid he caught. He was trolling on Cedar Creek Lake. Robert reeled the fish all the way in and I netted it. The fish was released.



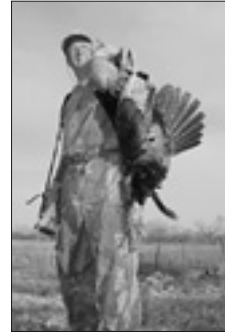
**CLINT WETZEL**, breaking the 8-lb mark on Lake Fork.



**GUS WHEELER**, 8, poses with harvested bird taken in south Texas. 8 3/4 inch beard.



**WILL BLOUNT**, 10, with a channel catfish he caught at a friend's farm pond in Jack County.



**WHIT GENTRY** poses with 10-inch bearded Tom taken at 140 yards with a scoped rifle, Jacksboro.

# GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

## WARDEN ASSISTS IN SHOOTING CASE

A warden responding to a routine call about a rifle spotted in a trash heap ended up helping police in the shooting case of Canton High School's football coach.

The coach, also athletic director, was shot April 7 at close range inside the field house by a 45-year-old man, who fled in a pickup. The suspect was arrested at 2 p.m. in Northwest Smith County without incident. Several weapons were with him, including handguns and assault rifles.

Meanwhile, the coach was flown to Tyler where he was listed in critical condition.

At 5:15 p.m., after the incident was winding down, Van Zandt County Game Warden Tim Walker was dispatched to a county road north of Canton to a reported pile of trash with a rifle on top. Walker arrived and found an assault rifle with bayonet, a license plate belonging to the suspect's pickup and various gun cases. He secured the scene for Texas Rangers.

Besides Walker, officers from area police departments, sheriff offices, the district attorney's office, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Ranger and SWAT teams helped in the case.

## ORPHANED DOLPHIN RESCUED

• Game Wardens Will Plumas and James Dunks, along with Capt. Ken Baker, assisted in the capture and transportation of a baby dolphin that became isolated from his mother in a new marina built in Laguna Vista. The dolphin, believed by National Marine Fisheries Service biologists to be about 20 pounds underweight, was captured using beach seines and transported to Port Aransas for rehabilitation. Because of the critical condition of the dolphin, and time being an issue, an escort was provided from point of capture to final destination in order to avoid any delays due to traffic or unforeseen circumstances.

## BUT OFFICER, HE WAS TRESPASSING

• Tarrant County Game Warden Ronald Mathis made contact with a man who had killed a Rio Grande turkey two days before the season opened. The man stated that he was not hunting; he was only trying to protect his property.

• Mathis also made contact with a man in Johnson County who had killed two Rio Grande turkeys a day before the season opened.

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

• Limestone County Game Warden Kurt Slaughter received a complaint about road hunting and arrived on the scene to find four people walking down the road. As luck would have it, the driver had run off the roadway

and gotten stuck. A rifle, spotlight, three rounds, and knife were held for evidence. Three men in the group were charged with public intoxication and hunting in a closed season (public road), and the female in the group was charged with consumption of alcohol by a minor.

## BOATING ACCIDENT TEAM FORMED

• Wardens Shawn Moore, Scott Vaca, Penny Nixon and Turk Jones are putting together a Boat Accident Investigation Team at the request of Capt. Robert Goodrich. The team will respond to fatality or serious injury accidents and coordinate the investigation with local authorities on various lakes, including Lake Travis. They are in the process of developing equipment, response protocols and investigative procedure guidelines to facilitate a complete and thorough investigation into these types of incidents.

## THE OYSTER CHRONICLES

• Victoria County Game Warden Travis Haug filed charges on two oyster boat captains for under-size oysters in San Antonio Bay recently. The oysters were returned to the reefs.

• Galveston County game wardens Ray Canales, Robert Waggett, and Capt. Edward Tanuz caught two commercial oyster boats harvesting oysters from prohibited waters. The two boat captains were arrested and jailed.

• Galveston County game wardens Ray Canales, Bobby Kana, Fred

Ruiz and Robert Waggett, along with Capt. Edward Tanuz, Bill Robinson, Chief of Fisheries Enforcement, and David Blevins with the FDA, caught five commercial oyster boats harvesting oysters from prohibited waters. All five boat captains were arrested and jailed.

• Chief Bill Robinson, Maj. Larry Young, and Capt. Henry Balderamas met with David Blevins of the Food and Drug Administration to review patrols of commercial oystering in Aransas and Copano Bays. Blevins was impressed with the high number of patrols being conducted and documented by the game wardens.

• Aransas County Game Warden Scott McLeod and Capt. Henry Balderamas found a commercial oyster boat preparing to unload a cargo that contained 60 percent under-size oysters. A citation was issued and Capt. Balderamas accompanied the boat back out to Aransas Bay to unload the illegal cargo. During this same check, about 20 sacks of under-size oysters that were also missing the certification tags were found at the dock. Since no one claimed the sacks, they were also returned to Aransas Bay.

## AN OPEN AND SHUT CASE

• Galveston County Game Warden Bobby Kana received a letter from the Senior Enforcement Attorney with NMFS advising him of the final disposition on a case that he

made last year. Warden Kana built this case against a local shrimper for a bay Turtle Excluder Device violation, and then turned it over to NMFS officers for prosecution. The violator ended up paying \$2,500 for having a sewn-shut TED.

## THEY PAID DEARLY FOR DEER

• Kinney County Game Warden Henry Lutz received final dispositions on a couple of county court cases this week. A defendant from the Houston area who Lutz caught killing several deer at night pleaded guilty, paid a \$4,000 fine and had his hunting license suspended for two years. This was a companion case in which the other defendant already had pleaded guilty, paid a \$4,000 fine, had two guns forfeited and lost his hunting license for three years.

## THAT'S RIGHT, THEY'RE NOT FROM TEXAS

• Game Warden Max Hartmann of Gillespie County has been involved in an extensive investigation involving five hunters from Louisiana. The investigation began in December of 2004 when Hartmann was checking hunting camps in the White Bluff area of Kimble County. When he checked for licenses of a group of out-of-state hunters, they showed him two lifetime resident hunting licenses, and two resident hunting licenses. Because the deer in the hunters' possession were all properly

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Continued from page 17  
**Game Warden Blotter**

tagged and they were in an area of the county where there was no radio or phone communication, Hartmann obtained identifiers on all the hunters. The landowner was a member of a wildlife management association and had the hunters complete a hunting lease record book, which provided an excellent resource for follow-up. This three-month investigation produced five second degree felonies for tampering with a governmental record by falsifying a license with the intent to defraud. Also, 24 white-tailed deer killed in Kimble County by the five hunters could result in 24 Class C misdemeanor charges for hunting without a valid non-resident license, restitution on all deer, plus Lacey Act violations for transporting the deer across a state line. Orange County Game Warden Ryan Hall, Chambers County Game Warden Donnie Robertson and Lt. Game Warden

Remy Broussard of Louisiana helped in the investigation.

**AWASH IN TROUBLES**

• Burnet Game Warden Chris Davis was checking fishermen on the upper end of Lake Travis and found two Liberty Hill men with suspicious stories about who owned the boat they had. Davis checked out the registration and found that the wrong Texas numbers were displayed on the vessel, and the HIN numbers were difficult to read. After extensive interviews with each subject, the men finally said they had found the boat several years ago after a rise in the water level, and put their old registration numbers on the boat to use it. Davis seized the vessel and discovered the boat, motor and trailer were stolen from Llano County in 2000. The operator was arrested and charged with no fishing license and registration violations. The same man was found to be on

probation from Williamson County and the warden turned the case over to the Llano County Sheriff's Department.

**BIG SKY WARDENS COME TO LONE STAR STATE**

• Dallas County Game Warden Tom Carbone assisted two Montana game wardens with an investigation into illegal game animal hunting. The Montana game wardens were in the Dallas area investigating 10 people on charges of killing illegal game animals and running illegal outfitting in Montana. While in Texas, the Montana game wardens filed 10 cases and collected around \$4,000 in fines from several Dallas area hunters. They have more cases to file once they get back in Montana and expect more fines to stem from the investigation. Van Zandt County Game Warden Steve Stapleton also assisted the Montana wardens.

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**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

Crossword puzzle solution from page 14.



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# OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

## HAVE AN EVENT TO PUBLICIZE?

E-mail it to  
 editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com.  
 Events must be open to the public.

**MAY 1-31:** Fishing on the Rio Grande, Black Gap WMA. Twenty-five camps available along the Rio Grande. Fishing license, and for ages 17 and older, an Annual Hunting or Limited Public Use Permit required. For more information, call (432) 376-2216 or (432) 837-3251 during normal business hours.

**MAY 14, 28:** Wild Boar Hunt, Fennessey Ranch. Hunters are placed in African-style brush blinds at daylight to hunt Russian boar on our private 4,000-acre ranch. Limited spaces and habitat management make this hunt run 98 percent success rate. Bring an ice chest to pack home your meat. Daylight-dark; fees \$150 Texas State Park Pass members, \$160 non-members; reservations required (361) 529-6600.

**MAY 14:** First T.R.E.E.S. Team Bass Tournament and Kids Bank Fish, Loyd Park at Joe Pool Lake, Grand Prairie. The Trinity River Environmental Education Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the Trinity River Watershed, hosts the first of what will be an annual event for fun and fund raising. The Kids Bank Fish begins at 8:30 a.m. and prizes will be given hourly. Entry cost is \$10 per person. The Team Bass Tournament begins at 6:30 a.m. with pre-registration to start at 5:30 a.m. Go to [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com) for more information or call (817) 451-6860.

**MAY 14:** CCATS and the City of West Tawakoni. The tournament entry fee is \$50 per team, open tournament. The event will run 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call the city at (903) 447-2285, or visit

[www.ccatfishing.com](http://www.ccatfishing.com) for more information.

**MAY 14:** Fourth Annual Carp Fishing Event, Cedar Hill State Park. Test your fishing skills fishing for golden carp with the Carp Anglers Group. Some fishing tackle available for use or bring your own equipment. 9 a.m.-noon; call to confirm program (972) 291-3900.

**MAY 14:** Media Bass 2005 Team Trails Central Teams Tournament, Lake Palestine. Friday registration is 6 - 8 p.m. at Porter's Sporting Goods on Highway 155 South. Entry fee and membership fee required. For more information, call Gordon Stauffer at (972) 222-2207.

**MAY 14:** National Wild Turkey Federation Hill Country Chapter Texas Hunting Heritage Banquet, Turner Hall, Fredericksburg. For more information, contact Ed Harlow at (830) 997-7510.

**MAY 14:** Media Bass 2005 Team Trails Northeast Teams Tournament, Lake Tawakoni. Saturday registration is at 5 a.m. Take-off and weigh-in are at Lake Tawakoni State Park. Entry fee and membership fee required. For more information, call Eldon Stout at (972) 222-3751.

**MAY 18:** Dallas Safari Club Monthly Meeting, Bent Tree Country Club, Dallas. Annual member trophy competition awards. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:15 p.m. \$35 per person before May 16, \$40 after May 16; children \$15. For more information, call (972) 980-9800 or (800) 946-4868.

**MAY 14:** Shimano Fishing Tour, Fun-n-Sun, Hurst. Learn techniques and tips from the experts at Shimano. Register for prizes and test out the gear. For more information, call (817) 280-0480.

**MAY 14:** Bellaire Ducks Unlimited Dinner, Bellaire Banquet Center, Bellaire. For more information, contact Buzz Darilek at (713) 661-6264, Tom

Kane at (713) 664-4842 or e-mail [jamesdarilek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jamesdarilek@sbcglobal.net).

**MAY 14-15:** NASCAR Days, Bass Pro Shops, Katy. Fun and games for the entire family. Come and test your skills with the casting contest - put the plug in the target and spin the wheel for great prizes. There will also be a 1/18 scale race track set up so the kids can compete in Time Trials on the electric track. Younger kids can spend a few minutes at the coloring station, using free coloring sheets and crayons or participate in the mini-wind-up car races. For more information call (281) 644-2200.

**MAY 16:** Shimano Fishing Tour, Academy Sports and Outdoors, Grapevine. Learn techniques and tips from the experts at Shimano. For more information, call (817) 410-4200.

**MAY 17:** Shimano Fishing Tour, Academy Sports and Outdoors, North Richland Hills. Learn techniques and tips from the experts at Shimano. For more information, call (817) 428-1618.

**MAY 19:** Coastal Conservation Association Tomball/Magnolia Banquet, VFW Hall, Tomball. 6 - 10 p.m. Call Robert Taylor at (713) 626-4222 for more information.

**MAY 19:** Coastal Conservation Association Inland Chapters Austin Banquet, Austin Music Hall, Austin. 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Call Robby Byers at (713) 626-4222 for more information.

**MAY 20:** Ducks Unlimited West Houston Dinner, Farm and Ranch Club, Houston. For more information, contact Matthew Boane at (281) 496-9226 or e-mail [mboane@earthlink.net](mailto:mboane@earthlink.net).

**MAY 20-22:** Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop, Texas Baptist Encampment. This three-day weekend workshop provides participants with a chance to learn new outdoor skills in a fun and relaxing atmosphere. Class topics are diverse and participants need not have any experience to enjoy

themselves. We teach classes in kayaking, camping, outdoor cooking, birding and more. Come join the fun. 10 a.m. May 20 through 1 p.m. May 22; fee \$185 per person; reservations required. For more information visit [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/baow/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/baow/) or call (512) 389-8198.

**MAY 21:** Media Bass 2005 Team Trails East Teams Tournament, Lake Tyler. Entry fee and membership fee required. For more information, call Aaron Palmer at (903) 856-5473.

**MAY 21:** Wal-Mart Kids' All-American Fishing Derby, Galveston Island State Park. Bring your gear and have fun fishing. Open to kids 15 and under with prizes given and a chance to win state and national prizes. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information, call (409) 737-1222.

**MAY 21:** Media Bass 2005 Team Trails ArkaTex Teams Tournament, Wright Patman Lake. Entry fee and membership fee required. For more information, contact Chad Cranford at (870) 898-6296.

**MAY 21:** National Wild Turkey Federation Katy Prairie Chapter Texas Hunting Heritage Banquet, Great Southwestern Equestrian Center, Katy. For more information, contact Karla Chando at (281) 644-2252.

**MAY 21:** First Lake Colorado City HydroBike Race and Relay, Lake Colorado City State Park. Teams of four will compete. Early registration \$20 before May 8th, \$25 after; reservations required (325) 728-3931.

**MAY 21:** Media Bass 2005 Team Trails Southeast Teams Tournament, Lake Comroe. Saturday registration is at 5 a.m. Take-off and weigh-in are at April Plaza Marina. Membership required, \$30. Entry fee to Media Bass tournaments is \$150 per team of two. One place is paid for every five team entrants. For more information, call Ray Ford at (972) 336-0731.

**MAY 21:** National Wild Turkey Federation Blackwater Prairie Chapter Texas Hunting Heritage Banquet, Fletcher Warren Civic Center, Greenville. For more information, contact James Handley at (903) 455-1631 or e-mail [txlawdog35@yahoo.com](mailto:txlawdog35@yahoo.com).

**MAY 21:** Media Bass 2005 Team Trails Slot Lakes Team Tournament, Ray Roberts Lake. Entry fee and membership fee required. For more information, call Eldon Stout at (972) 222-3751.

**MAY 21:** Shimano Fishing Tour Extreme Edge Kayak Fishing Tournament, Galveston. Hosted by Fishing Tackle Unlimited, Houston. This is a three-fish (flounder, redfish, trout) catch, photograph and release event. Entry fee is \$125 from 13 days before the tournament until the captain's meeting. For more information call Rick Roberts at (877) 621-1010. [rick@extremeedgefishing.com](mailto:rick@extremeedgefishing.com).

**MAY 24:** Ducks Unlimited Canton Fun Night, Canton on the Mountain, Canton. Speakers include TXDU District chairman Doug Jones & ETX Regional Director J.E. "Yaxoo" Thomas. Enjoy burgers, hot dogs. For more information, call Paul Bridgefarmer at (903) 567-4164 or e-mail [paulbridgefarmer@tfx-ins.com](mailto:paulbridgefarmer@tfx-ins.com).

**MAY 26:** Ducks Unlimited Metrocrest (Addison) Dinner, Addison Convention Center. For more information contact Rob Gokey at (972) 234-3933.

**MAY 26:** Basic Canoe Skills Clinic, Inks Lake State Park. First-time boaters, learn the skills needed to enjoy a canoe trip. The clinic will focus on the basics of canoeing—padding, steering and stabilizing the canoe. Wear footwear that can get wet. Space is limited. 2-3 p.m. Call (512) 793-2223 for reservations.

**MAY 26:** Coastal Conservation Association Lower Coast Laredo Banquet, Laredo Civic Center, Laredo. 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Call Robby Byers at (800) 626-4222 for more information.

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